

# This Fact Should Be Kept Secret! Fowler Park Great Outing Place

By GARY MINICH  
Tribune Staff Writer

The profession of journalism oft-times demands we do ourselves a disservice. That's the feeling I have in spreading the word about Fowler Park (How much better off I would be keeping it to myself!).

Fowler Park is new but seems a return to a decade or two ago when more of our lakes and streams were clear, cool and unpolluted. Part of the reason for the county park's swimming area being so attractive is that so few of us have discovered it. I reasoned before talking to David Beres, Vigo County Park and Recreation Department superintendent.

The water is crystal clear — clean, without sediment. It looks clean enough to drink. Sadly, sitting on the raft in the middle of the swimming area, I wondered how long it would take for usage to ruin all this.

## Spring Fed Lake

No need to worry, according to Beres. People are not really the problem — nature is. Most polluted lakes are fed by run off from industrial areas or by streams polluted by industry. The 23-acre lake at the park is fed by underground springs and run-off from surrounding farm lands.

"Crowds will make the water cloudy (temporarily)," Beres told me, "by stirring up the sandy bottom." Other than that, people do little damage as long as they do not dump their trash and garbage in the water. So far, users of Fowler Park have respected the beautiful surroundings.

"We've pushed more than 10 tons of sand into the water at the beach to keep the mud covered," Beres said. That helps keep the water clear. In addition, water samples are taken each week to insure that it is safe for swimming.

What about in the future? When the really big crowds start?

Again, no problem. Contrary to the belief of many, the lake is not a former strip pit. It is a dammed valley. By placing



ON A HOT DAY—The bathing area at Vigo County's Fowler Park south of the city looks like this on hot, busy days. If you go early in the week, or during the week, you'll see what our reporter is talking about—unspoiled, natural beauty. Photo by Martin.

the swimming area near the man-made dam-drain any pollution caused by humans is quickly eliminated.

## For Years to Come

"Fowler Park should be clear and clean for years to come," Beres assured me.

So assured, the interview progressed to other features of the five-year old facility:

Planned in the mid-60s and named for the first Vigo County soldier to die in Southeast Asia, Capt. Eugene Fowler, the park has been open since 1967 with more to offer each year.

In addition to swimming, camp sites, picnic areas and hiking trails are the major attractions. Electrical and plumbing facilities have been installed this year for the convenience of campers. Of the 140 acres eventually to be included in the park, 70 acres have been developed since 1966 for recreational use. Approximately 47

acres are available for picnicking and camping. Plans are in the works to include another 80 acres primarily as a hiking and trail area.

Facilities include a large picnic shelter available by reservation, beach concessionaire and shelter, rental boats, boat dock, numerous picnic tables and grills.

## No Entrance

Most of what the park offers is free. Camping fees are \$2 per night with electricity and water, \$1 per night at unimproved sites. A returnable deposit is charged in reserving the main shelter.

All improvements and repairs as well as salaries for park employees come from the annual budget, this year set at \$61,000. Matching state funds aided in some developments in 1970.

The park is open all year, although some facilities are closed in winter, mainly because

the unimproved roads become mud in rainy and snowy weather.

For swimmers, three life guards are on duty at all times with others added on weekends. Three of the guards presently employed are Red Cross-certified water safety instructors. A fourth is a senior life guard who hopes to be certified as a water safety instructor this summer.

The beach opens at noon daily and stays open until 8 p.m. Memorial Day's crowd of 1,500 prompted Beres to open the swimming season a week early, but most weekdays, the park is the least crowded spot in the county.

Personally, I'd like to keep it that way . . . but good things are meant to be shared. If you want to share Fowler Park, take U.S. 41 south to Stuckey's, turn left and follow the signs. In this age of trash, garbage and pollution, you'll make a rare find.

FOWLER PARK



T.M. STAR  
7-6-70

Vigo Co. Recreation

Vigo Co. Recreation  
STAR 7/6/70

# County Dedicates Fowler Park

By SID SILVERMAN  
Star Staff Writer

Vigo County's first park was dedicated Sunday afternoon in an impressive ceremony that attracted several hundred persons.

Conducted in the shelter of 140-acre Fowler Park, located about six miles south of Terre Haute, with the 240-foot beach and a bluff towering over it serving as a backdrop, the guests were told the park heralded the start of an extensive recreation program for this area.

Special guests included the immediate family of the hero for whom the park was named, Capt. Eugene R. Fowler, killed in action in Vietnam April 27, 1965. They were the widow, Mrs. Mary Lou Fowler, 2354 Hulman St.; her two children, Jeannie, 14, and Steven, 10; the soldier's mother, Mrs. Marie Fowler, 1229 S. Center St., and his sisters, Mrs. Louise Lewis and Mrs. Marjory Brown, both of Indianapolis.

+ + +

Jack Wood, president of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, who served as master of ceremonies, noted Fowler Park represented a living memorial for Captain Fowler, the recipient of both the Silver Star and Bronze Star medals for gallantry in action, together with the Purple Heart and citations from the South Vietnamese government.

Other guests included, besides Wood, the following members of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department: Ruel Fox Burns, vice president; Maxine Winklepleck, secretary; Max Miller, Vigo County Extension agent, and John Etling, president of the Wabash Valley Central Labor Council. Also present were Terre Haute Mayor Leeland Larrison, State Sen. Herman Fanning, and George Gettinger, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission, along with two park and recreation department officials, Dave Beres, superintendent, and Miss Sally Yontz, secretary.

Vigo County Commissioner Harry P. Brentlinger, in a short address, recounted the history of Fowler Park. He said the facility developed in 1967 when the Peabody Coal Company gave the site of a former strip mining operation to the county.

+ + +



**REEL HIM IN**—Fisherman Duane Caldwell, RR 2, West Terre Haute, gives two kibitzers a lesson in the art of angling at Fowler Park. At left is Dr. Robert H. Meyne, chairman of the Department of Recreation at Indiana State University, who delivered the principal address Sunday at the dedication of the park. The other kibitzer is Mrs. Maxine Winklepleck, secretary of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department Board. The eight-year-old fisherman told them, "Easy does it." (Photo by the House of Photography.)

The undertaking, Brentlinger noted, was an illustration of the optimistic spirit evidenced in Vigo County recently. That cheerful aspect followed many years of despair in the Terre Haute area concerning the losing of a number of industries, including the railroad roundhouses and the shaft mines.

Perhaps that optimism was manifested, Brentlinger suggested, with a new brand of cooperation among local industry and county and city units of government. He said that new spirit resembled the concept of a Unigov form of government, such as is practiced in Indianapolis. For example, he illustrated, Vigo County and Terre Haute governments have joined forces to form a school corporation, a civil defense organization and a health department. In addition the

county has joined the city in an attempt to construct an underpass.

Brentlinger also noted Fowler Park was helped by donations from individuals. For instance, material to build the shelter was furnished by the Terre Haute Kiwanis Club, with members of the Central Building Trades Council donating their labor.

In another address, Dr. Robert H. Meyne, chairman of the Department of Recreation at Indiana State University, asserted the developing of Fowler Park represented one of the major achievements ever accomplished in this community. He noted the dedication occurred only one day after the 194th birthday anniversary of the United States. Both resulted from three factors: a belief in God, hard work and a system of free society, he said.

Dr. Meyne said the park and many others throughout the country can help solve the most significant problem we face—what to do with our leisure time.

He predicted eventually the average American will have a 165-day work year with a 200 days of leisure time. He said, "The retired senior citizen especially must learn how to use his free time."

Many of the senior citizens' lives, he continued virtually end on retirement because they have never learned how to play. "We have failed," he explained, "because we haven't showed them how to use their free time."

As an example of how important the program is, Dr. Meyne said, "Last year we have spent \$150 billion dollars on recreation and leisure programs—twice the amount spent in this country on education."

With travel increasing, he predicted by the year 2000 Fowler Park will be a tourist haven.

CONT.



Vigo Co. Recreation  
T.H. STAR 6-1-70

Vigo Co. Recreation  
**Planning Heads  
Chosen To Study  
Vigo Park Needs**

The Advisory Committee to the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department met Tuesday night to name study committee chairmen.

The sparsely attended meeting heard a request from David Beres, director of the Vigo County Parks and Recreation, to advise him of the needs of the county.

Mrs. Kay Thompson will head a group that will study the recreation needs of the county, with particular emphasis on coordinating with the Vigo County School Corp.

Mrs. Dorothy Clark was named to head a committee to determine historical sites in the county, with a view toward marking them and publicizing them.

Fred Schwartz will be chairman of a committee to study the park needs and determine what lands may be necessary.

A nature committee will be headed by James Richard, with wildlife preservation a possible source of consideration.

The council meeting was conducted by J. Morton Swango, chairman of the advisory group. Dick Tuttle, of Ewing Miller and Associates, an architectural firm, presented plans for a proposed park and recreation area at the Otter Creek watershed project.



**MAKING LIKE POLAR BEARS**—These swimmers were unmindful of the low temperature Sunday afternoon as they plunged into the scenic lake at Fowler Park during the dedication ceremony at Vigo County's new recreation facility, about six miles south of Terre Haute. Four life guards were on duty at the 240-foot beach. Behind the swimmers is the large bath house. (Photo by the House of Photography).

since recreation areas will be in demand. What especially will make it more attractive, he added, will be the moving of the covered bridge there.

Dr. Meyne concluded with a proposal that as much money should be spent on recreation as on education. He said an adequate recreation program will help control our major problems, such as the drug abuse, crime and delinquency.

During the ceremony the Rev. John O'Brien gave the invocation and the Rev. George E. Mitchell delivered the benediction.

The band that played consisted of union musicians who donated their time.



Community Affairs File

# Fowler Park

## Listed Among

*Parks & Recreation, Vigo Co*

# Top in U.S.

T JUN 4 1974

By CAROLYN TOOPS

Tribune Staff Writer

"Vigo County's Fowler Park could be a symbol for national and world recognition," John Greenslit, Executive director of the Michigan Park and Recreation Department, said Monday following a tour of the county facility located several miles south of Terre Haute.

He was one of the speakers Monday at the city's Fairbanks Park during Park and Recreation Day at the Banks-of-the-Wabash Festival.

"The design of the adventure playground at Fowler is refreshingly unique, and it is certain to be a prime attraction, and to be copied by many others," he added.

The wood treatment process, developed by a local firm, Western Tar Products, assures that the wood used for the playground is non-toxic. The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department is installing picnic tables of wood preserved by the "salt process," which requires much less maintenance than other previously used, Supt. Keith Ruble said.

Another advantage is that wood thus treated deteriorates very very slowly, Ruble said.

Designers of the playground were two artists in residence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Father Bert Dieter and Charlie Gibson. They worked with Ruble in planning the swings, slides and places to climb... all the necessary things in a safe playground that children can really enjoy.

"There are only about two companies in the United States that make wood playground equipment," Ruble said, one in Michigan and another in the state of Washington. Not having to pay freight costs, since we could get our playground right here, has really helped the small budget of the department."

Greenslit also commended Vigo County for the planning of Fowler Park, noting that the intensively used areas

Continued On Page 2, Col. 4.

Fowler Park X

T JUN 4 1974  
Continued From Page One.

(camping, primarily) are well isolated from heavy traffic and that the historic covered bridge and the beginnings of a pioneer village were placed to great advantage.

He suggested that a slide presentation be prepared on Fowler Park and the new playground equipment to tell others about the innovative work being done.

Prairie Creek Park, now under construction, has "tremendous potential," Greenslit said, but warned that the desire "to be all things to all people on a limited 100 acres might be difficult." He commended Ruble and the staff for their excellent planning of the park on a limited budget. Heavy erosion is a matter of concern at the new park, and will require control measures.

His remarks gave county park board members pause, as they discussed pros and cons of multi purpose courts, playing fields and other matters during an informal luncheon at Fairbanks Park.

Dwight Rettie, executive director of the National Recreation and Park Association, was guest speaker at a Monday evening dinner at the Elks Fort Harrison Country Club.

"We need to think about the place of leisure in future society. It will be more important because people will have more time... the distinction between work and leisure will become more blurred, as the work week becomes three or four days," Rettie said.

He predicted that eventually voluntary service programs will be something to do on the job. Other "blurring" will be in the areas of recreation and avocation, especially as second, third and even fourth careers are accepted.

"Newer, broader concepts of leisure should include more volunteer service in addition to outdoor recreation... different people have different images... some think recreation is frivolous, unnecessary and immoral," Rettie said.

"We educate people for a good job, not a good life. The future gives us an opportunity to help people to a richer, more fulfilling life. We need a new kind of conservation ethic for the city. We're intolerant of the old, people and things, and need a new respect for history. It's time we planned our cities for the future. We should protect our park lands for people, not from people," he concluded, "and with this Banks-of-the-Wabash Festival you have made an important beginning."

Community Affairs File

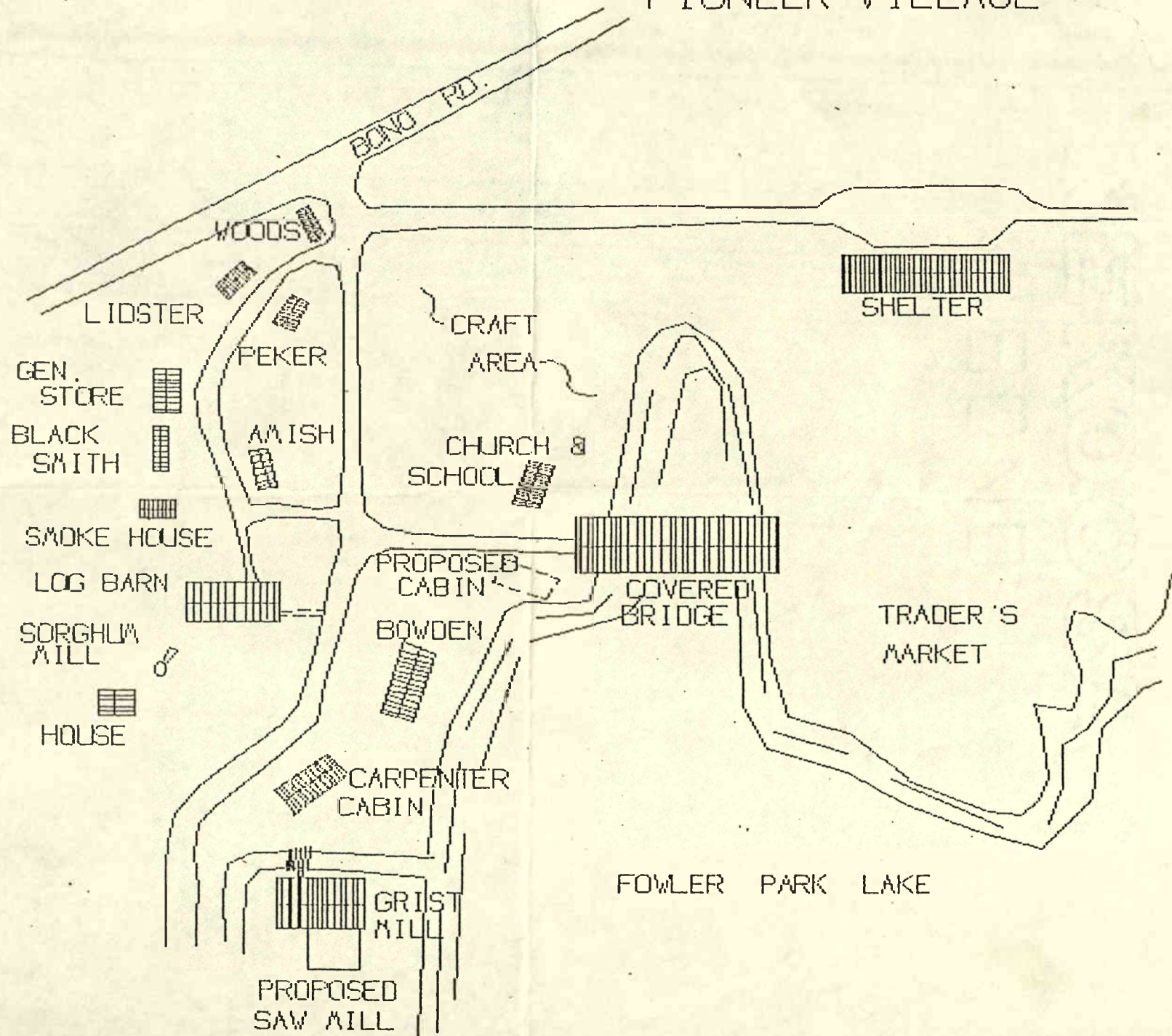
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Parks (WV)

# FOWLER PARK PIONEER VILLAGE





# Fowler Park Development Plans Advance

T.H. Parks,

T.H. Trib-star 8/4/68.

Fowler Park



BASS, BLUEGILLS AND CATFISH are waiting in the waters of Fowler Park's 20-acre lake. While Dad and the boys

search for the edibles, Mom and the girls can prepare for the feast in one of the many picnic spots in the park.

Photo by Martin.





**FISHING, BOATING POPULAR** — Martha Carson, 11, Fayetteville, Ark., tries her luck with a fishing pole at Fowler Park. She is visiting relatives in Terre Haute. In the boat

are her brother, Neil Carson, 15, left, and a companion, Robert Steward, 16, 3039 S. 6th St. Photo by Martin.



By DICK SUTLIFF  
Tribune Staff Writer

With an eye on the future recreational needs of area residents, the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department is moving ahead with its plans to develop Fowler Park into one of the finest family fun spots in the state.

The 140-acre park, acquired from the Peabody Coal Co. just one year ago yesterday, is located 10 miles south of downtown Terre Haute among the spoilbanks of northeast Linton Township.

It was named in honor of U.S. Army Capt. Eugene R. Fowler, the first Vigo County man to die as the result of hostile enemy action in Vietnam. He was killed April 27, 1965, when he stepped on a land mine.

Under the supervision of Richard D. Norris, the energetic 33-year-old county park director, much has already been accomplished toward the development of the park. But there's still a lot of work to do before Norris' dreams are realized.

#### Awaits Grant

Norris hopes to awaken some morning soon to find \$26,500 in federal land and water conservation funds under his pillow. The county applied for the money last spring to the Department of the Interior through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The federal funds, plus a matching \$26,500 in local money, are needed for construction

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of a series of reports in the Tribune-Star on city and county parks, and what they offer in the way of facilities for local residents. City and county officials urge everyone to support the park and recreational facilities.

of a bathhouse, shelter house, boat ramp and fishing pier, as well as for camp site development, beach development and hiking trails.

Area residents looking for a pleasant spot to spend a Sunday afternoon would do well to investigate Fowler Park. The county recently purchased 12



T. EUGENE FOWLER

five picnic tables and 10 wooden benches which are placed strategically in the park.

A 420-foot well furnishes adequate supplies of water for drinking and cooking. Several grills have been placed in the park to accommodate the barbecue set. A new comfort station, built of cedar wood, is also available.

Base bluegill and catfish

abound in the 20-acre lake, which attracts fishermen of the area. Norris says the lake was stocked about four years ago, and there have been reports of rather sizeable catches from time to time.

Although swimming is not yet permitted — there's no money in the budget for lifeguards — the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department plans to seek funds in next year's budget to allow swimming along the 250-foot beach.

The average depth of the lake is 10 to 15 feet, although it's about 35 feet in depth in some areas. There are about 20 acres of picnic area being developed to handle the expected large crowds once the park is fully operational.

#### Camping Area

The camping area will range over about 15 acres. Norris says, while the 70 acres of spoilbanks will offer opportunities

for the hiking trails, primitive camping, nature study and collection of fossils in abundant supply.

Norris says two hiking trails will be mapped out on the crests of the spoilbanks. One will be about one-half mile in length, the other about a mile, he said. Crown vetch has been sown on the spoilbanks to check soil erosion, and also to add a touch of beauty to the park setting.

Also in the planning stage is a concessions stand, Norris reports. He says the Vigo County Highway Department plans to resurface the present dirt roads through the park, providing the county council okays the money budget.

Last winter hundreds of youngsters and adults took advantage of supervised ice-skating at the park. Skating is on the agenda again this year. Norris uses the local news media to announce the ice-skating schedule at the park.

#### Fishing Offered

Fishing is permitted from

6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. from April 1 to Oct. 31, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. beginning Nov. 1 and continuing through March 31. No hunting, firearms or shooting of any kind is allowed in Fowler Park.

Captain Fowler, who was only 34 when he lost his life in Bien Hoa Province, had been in Vietnam only seven months. He was serving as a U. S. adviser to South Vietnamese forces. His body lies among other war heroes in Arlington National Cemetery on the banks of the Potomac River.

His widow, Mrs. Mary Lou Fowler, and the couple's two children, Stephen, 8, and Genie Lou, 12, reside at 811 W. Prospect Ave. Captain Fowler was a native of Terre Haute, and had been on active duty about five years.

Norris, who was graduated from Indiana University in 1958 with a bachelor of science degree in recreation, is working toward his master's degree

the same field at Indiana State University.

Before coming here on April 1, 1967, Norris headed the recreation department for Clinton, Iowa. He is a native of Fort Wayne, and has 10 years experience in the park and recreation profession.

Norris and the park board members are hopeful of getting a measure of assistance from the county council in next year's budget. They are asking for \$35,000 for park maintenance and the planned improvements.

Some folks have asked how to get to Fowler Park. From

Terre Haute, the best route is down U. S. Highway 41 to Stuckey's Pecan Shop, turn east and follow the signs.

Once you get there, you may not want to leave.



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Bass, bluegill and catfish

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Vigo County Historical Society



## Community Focus

# Wilderness area makes Fowler Park unique spot

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By Dave Delaney  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Fowler Park — largest in the Vigo County park system — offers something for almost any outdoor summertime recreational need.

The 440-acre park, located south of Terre Haute, has 10 lakes for fishing, 65 modern and 25 primitive camp sites, a swimming beach, many miles of hiking trails through wooded areas, playground apparatus for the kids, a pioneer village and, most uniquely, a 300-acre wilderness area.

"Our wilderness area is unusual to the state," said Keith Ruble, superintendent of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department. There are 10 lakes that dot the wilderness area, which can be reached only by boat or by hiking trail. Or you can reach the area on horseback, if you provide the horse.

Four and one-half miles of trails meander through the hilly wilderness area that also can be used for overnight camping. Campers must register with the park office telling how many days they plan to remain in the wilderness area.

There's no charge to use this latest addition to Fowler Park, which was created in 1967 and named after Capt. Eugene R. Fowler, killed in southeast Asia April 27, 1965.

The park is a popular place for camping, both modern and primitive. Ernie and Helen Kiefner collect fees at the camping area, nestled against the many-fingered shoreline of the park's largest lake, 16 acres.

"We've found that quite a few people camp out here for their vacations," said Kiefner, who's retired from Pfizer. He said most are from the Wabash Valley area, but some are out-of-state.

Kiefner said camping is sometimes light early in the week, but usually builds by Thursday.

The Fowler Park camping area is well stocked with full-grown, shady trees.

"We like it here because it's so peaceful," said Jenetta Mayfield of Coalmont, who was sitting at a picnic table playing pinochle with her daughter and daughter-in-law. "The people are real friendly, too."

Day in and day out, the beach area is probably the most active spot in the park. The swimming beach is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. You can rent a rowboat for \$1.50 an hour or a canoe for \$2 an hour. Life jackets are mandatory and available for rental.

"On hot days we'll get probably 250 people on the beach," said lifeguard Art Hayes, a senior at Indiana State University majoring in aeronautics. "During the week it's usually mom bringing the kids out. Weekends here are exceptionally busy...and the boats really go."

Four lifeguards are on duty at once during the week and one more is added on weekends. Nearly all are either college or high school students.

Fishing is quite popular on the lake, said Hayes. "Every once in a while someone will do real well," he continued.

The concession stand is located just off the swimming beach and offers hot dogs, pizza, snack food, ice cream and soft drink. There's a bathhouse for changing clothes.

Kids taking part in the Camp Clover summer day camp program used the park for seven weeks this summer. "Happiness Bag is staying here for three weeks," said Hayes.

Another major part of the park is its pioneer village. This consists of five well-weathered cabins built of large, squared-off trees and a barn. The houses have old-time shingled roofs and are chinked between the logs to keep out the weather. They were built in the 1800s and moved to their present site. The village is bordered by a split-rail fence.

Each year on the first weekend in October the county holds Pioneer Days at the village. People dressed in period costumes make cider, inhabit the cabins and for a time live like the pioneers did. Artists display their wares.

"We want to make pioneer village more alive," said Ruble. Next year, he envisions featuring something different at the village each month — perhaps a dulcimer music period, a time of weaving and others.

Commenting on the many park lakes, Ruble said they are probably the best for fishing in this area. He said the DNR has stocked the lakes with many types of fish to include bass, redear and catfish. "They released 900 catfish last year and plan to release about 1,000 this fall," said Ruble.

Fowler Park also has the last covered bridge in Vigo County. Called Irishman's Bridge, it was built in 1845 and moved from its original site spanning Honey Creek in 1971. It's believed to be the only covered bridge in which a baby was born.

But not all is sweetness and light at Fowler Park.

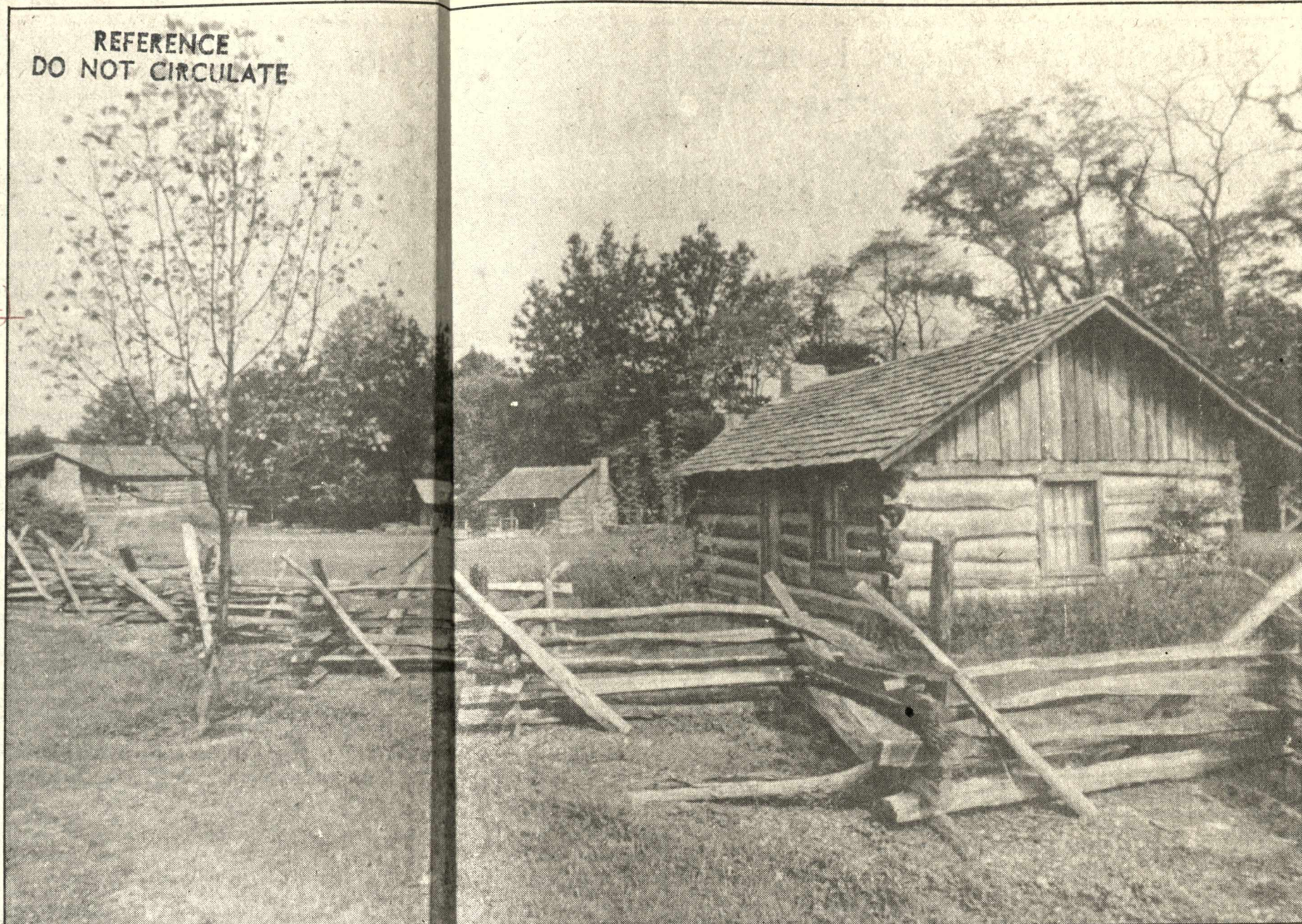
"The park needs a renovation of its restrooms and roads," Ruble said. The park has a poor water system and that some campers carry their own water into the park, he said.

Ruble also said because of the high water table liquid sewage must be hauled out of the park daily, an expensive project. "We'd like to get non-porous tanks put in here," said Ruble.

The park superintendent said the restrooms are too small at Fowler and the concession stand needs a complete renovation. In his opinion, the park roads need blacktopping.

Said Ruble: "It'll probably take something like \$200,000 to really get the park up to snuff." He said the possibility exists to get federal assistance on the project.

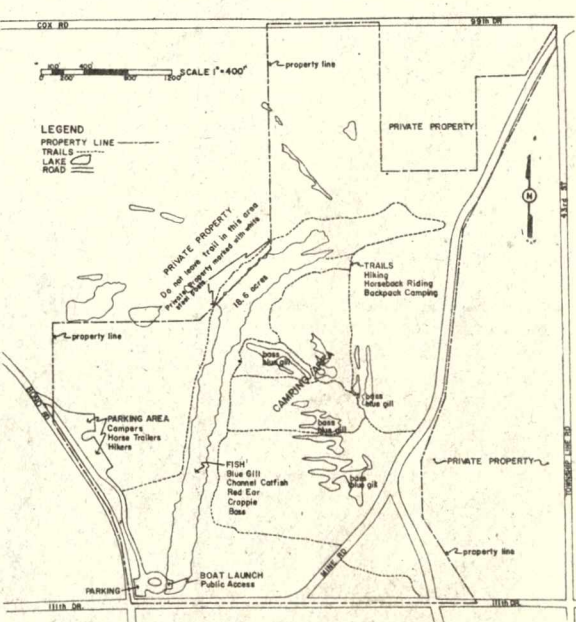
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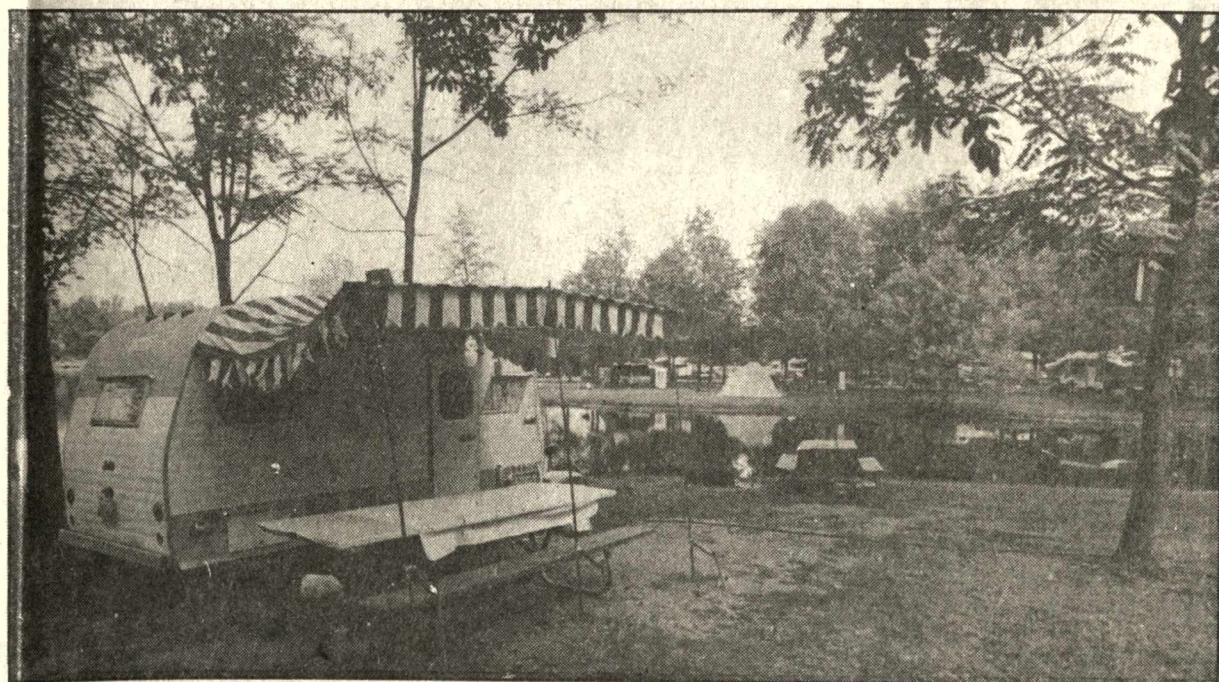
Tribune-Star/  
Bob Poynter

## The way we were

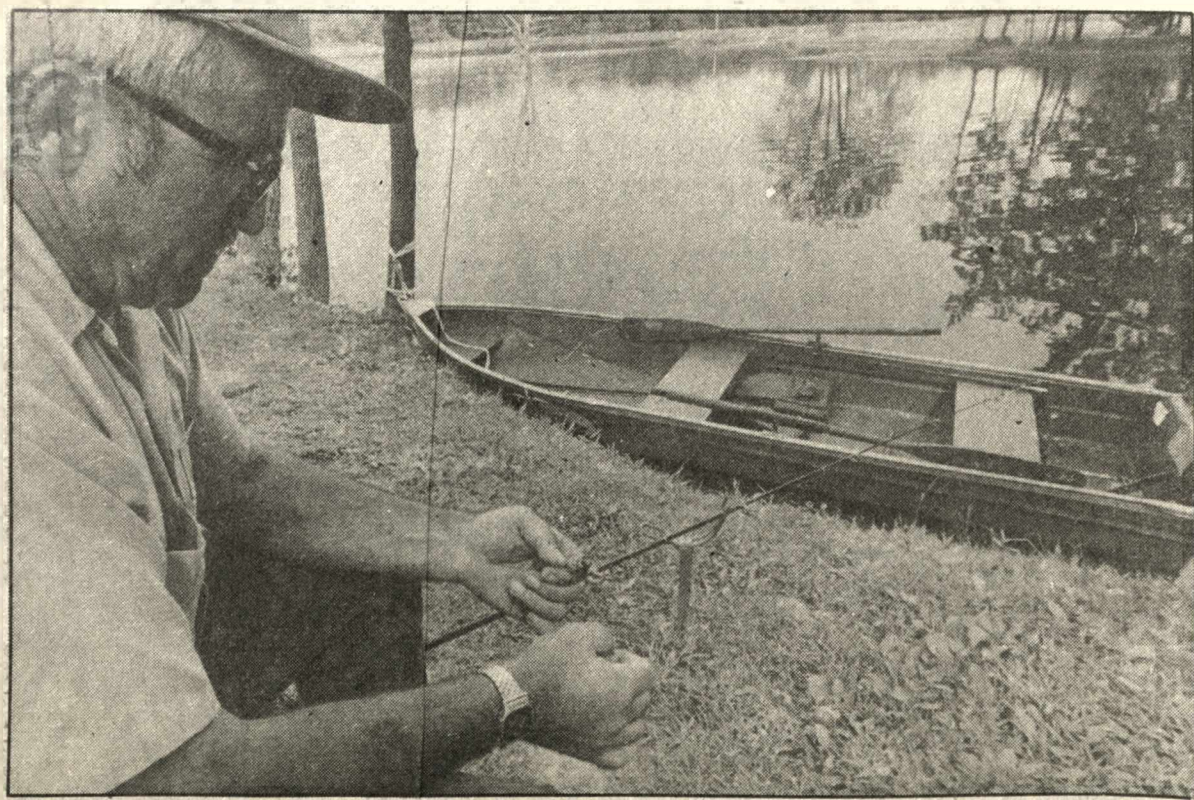
Fowler Park is more than a recreational area. It also is an outdoors history classroom. By visiting there you can learn how early settlers lived in log cabins [above] and see Vigo County's only remaining covered bridge [left]. Each first weekend of October is Pioneer Days at the park's pioneer village, when people dress in period costumes and live like the pioneers did. Park Superintendent Keith Ruble hopes to be able to expand that effort by adding a monthly special event that would feature an activity such as dulcimer playing.



Rustic: Map locates wilderness area.  
community focus one-liner A11 Sun



Home away from home: Typical camping site at Fowler Park.



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter, Dave Delaney

**People-pleasing park:** Bill Thomas, Terre Haute, [left] baits his hook, getting ready to cast his line into Fowler Park's well-stocked waters. Ernie Kiefner [above, left] collects fees at park. Jeanetta Mayfield [above, center] says of park: "It's so peaceful." Lifeguard Art Hayes [above, right] keeps eye out for safety on park beach, a popular spot on steamy days.



Scouts may be willing  
to lease property

Boy Scouts

Continued from page 4

Two sources indicated last week that the Boy Scouts are willing to lease property adjacent to Fowler Park to the County Park Department on a \$1-a-year basis. A meeting is to be arranged shortly by Lester Shepherd, Peabody Coal Company official, between the company, representatives of the Boy Scouts and the County Park Board to iron out details.

Peabody gave the property, about 300 acres, to the Boy Scouts ten years ago to use for camping, boating, fishing and other scouting-related programs. To date little use has been made of the land, while Fowler Park is suffering from over use.

The Park Board has indicated an interest in acquiring the property and using it for the same types of recreation that Peabody originally stipulated. But the Scouts have been reluctant to turn the property over to the county and have hoped to realize a profit by selling it.

Shepherd has said, however, that Peabody gave the land for scouting purposes and wanted to see it used for that. He does not think the firm would be willing to remove restrictions contained in the deed on that requirement.

Keith Ruble, park superintendent, said that his department has always cooperated with the Scouts and would be willing to guarantee use of the property to the group. In view of this, he does not understand why the Scouts feel they must hold on to ownership of the land.

(Continued on next page)

Although Ruble said the county would be able to obtain federal and state monies to develop the property if it was leased on a long term basis, he said such an arrangement creates problems. If the land is leased, both agencies would share a dual responsibility for liability. So each would have to carry insurance, he pointed out.

Also, if the county makes a large investment over the years in developing the property and people become used to the facility, what will happen if the Scouts take the park back again, Ruble wondered. "If it is leased to us, it must be for 99 years, I think. Ten or 20 years would not be acceptable," Ruble said.

Ruble pointed out that while there is lots of water in Vigo County, there are only four public fishing sites. The Scout property has some good fishing places, he said, and would add greatly to county recreation possibilities. He noted that it might be possible to extend Fowler Park horse trails into the area as another use.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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# County's Fowler Park gets 300 new acres

By CAROLYN TOOPS  
Tribune Staff Writer

Fowler Park, operated by the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, will be expanded by some 300 acres without the expenditure of additional funds, through the transfer of property adjacent to it.

Park Superintendent Keith Ruble reported to the county park board at a Monday afternoon meeting that negotiations involving the Peabody Coal Co. and the Wabash Valley Boy Scouts of America Council had been completed.

Under an agreement between the coal company and the Boy Scout Council, a reversionary clause gives the property back to the coal company if the property is not used for scouting purposes.

The BSA Council recently voted to approve the transfer of the property, which contains nearly 20 acres of lakes, to the county park department.

John Thomas, counsel for the BSA, and County Attorney Robert L. Wright will work out the final details of the transfer.

The same reversionary clause will apply, should the land not be used for recreational purposes. Also, a part of the property will be used exclusively for primitive camping.

The possible acquisition of the Boy Scout/Peabody property has been "on the back burner" for several years.

Also highlighting Monday's meeting were discussions about a name for the new northeast county park and plans for development of the site.

If all board members attend the Dec. 22 meeting, a name might be selected at that time. Among those being considered are Old National Trail Park, Maple Rose Park and Veterans Memorial Park.

Ruble reported that the park department has had \$200,000 in federal funds approved for the new northeast park, with \$150,000 for acquisition and \$50,000 for the second phase of the dam renovation, as well as for play-

ground development and trails.

Dredging of the lake fingers is about two-thirds completed, Ruble said, adding that the rest of the work might be delayed until spring.

"In kind" contributions to the new park include about \$5,000 worth of fish from state fisheries and 1,200 hours of backhoe work in a wetlands area by the J.I. Case Co.

Other studies are in progress to determine costs and layout of utilities in the new park, Ruble said.

The multipurpose park will also include a nursery, with some 4,000 trees to be planted, Ruble said. He will be host for a seminar on March 10 here for representatives of the Indiana Park and Recreation Service on how to start a plant nursery.

The park department has a nursery at Prairie Creek Park, but the soil is too sandy for many varieties, Ruble said. He said the operation would eventually be carried on at the new park.

In order to cut down utility bills, the park department is also planning to consolidate maintenance work on park equipment at Fowler Park.

In his regular monthly report on recreational activities available in county parks, Ruble discussed the popularity of boating. On an average weekend at Fowler Park, boat rentals run as high as \$100, he said, with paddle boats enjoying great popularity.

"There's not as much fishing in the early morning as there used to be," he noted, adding that many people bring their own boats, including sailboats, to Fowler Park. The state installs boat launch facilities, he said.

Ruble promised to discuss changing trends in camping at the December meeting.

Attending Monday's session were Max G. Miller, board president; Susan McCarthy, vice-president; Burch Harlan, John Etling and John William Thompson. Board member Fox Burns was unable to be present.

Community Affairs File

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T.H. Parks  
Fowler Park  
T.H. Trib. 8/12/68  
To Get First  
Shelter Soon

By JACK HUGHES  
Tribune Staff Writer

Plans for the construction of the first shelter in Vigo County's first park, Fowler Park, were announced Monday at the regular meeting of the Vigo Park and Recreation Board by Jack Wood, president of the Board.

The shelter, to be known as the Kiwanis shelter, is expected to be the largest of several which will be built in the future. It was initiated by a gift from the Terre Haute Kiwanis Club of which the Board was advised by a letter from John Newlin, president of the club.

Dick Norris, superintendent of the County Park and Recreation Department, noted that the shelter which is to cover an area 30 feet by 80 feet will be more than twice as large as the average park shelter.

He said that this accommodation will permit the park, located south of Terre Haute on former strip-mining property near U.S. 41, to serve large

as to provide the county with credit for aid from other levels of government and that the shelter facility ultimately will represent a county park asset of more than \$15,000.

The service club gift is earmarked for the purchase of steel fabricating materials from a local firm which reportedly has offered to sell at cost for this project.

Wood expressed the hope that other gifts will reduce the expenditure to be made from park and aid funds for the foundation and construction of the shelter.

Fowler Park



Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)

## County wilderness area will be available in '83 to public

OCT 29 1982

Backpackers and horseback riders can look forward to exploring a new Vigo County wilderness area next year.

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department assumed ownership this week of about 300 acres of land near Fowler Park, according to Keith Ruble, park superintendent.

Peabody Coal Co. has forfeited all rights to the land, except oil and gas. Ruble says the land will be left as a wilderness area. Boating and fishing, horseback riding and backpacking will be allowed at the site. The state wildlife division will install a boat launch in the area this autumn or spring.

The 300-acre site includes at least eight lakes, all well-stocked. The largest lake is 18.6 acres, he said.

"Peabody was glad to cooperate with the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Board to assist in trying to make this land suitable for their use," said Jeffery Klinger, director of government relations and legal affairs for Peabody.

In 1970, Peabody conveyed the property to the Boy Scouts of America with the condition that ownership would revert to Peabody if the land were used for anything other than scouting activities, he said.

Community Affairs File

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Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co.)  
**Fowler Park Preparing  
For Third Pioneer Days**  
Community Affairs File  
18 SEP 20 1975 18 SEP 20 1975

By CAROLYN TOOPS  
Tribune Staff Writer

Get out those coonskin caps and fringed leather jackets, men. Ladies, prepare to don calico dresses and sunbonnets and get into the spirit of things at the third annual Pioneer Days celebration at Vigo County's Fowler Park on Saturday, Oct. 4 and Sunday, Oct. 5.

The park is about six miles south of Terre Haute just east of U.S. 41.

Dressing in period apparel will bet you in the costume contest, just one of the many events planned by the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department during the two-day fall festival. But visitors can just come to watch other people demonstrate arts and crafts of long ago.

There'll be candle dipping, spinning soap and butter making, hominy making, log hewing, rail splitting, bullet making, hog dressing and roasting, blacksmithing, to name a few demonstrations.

Activity will be centered around the Pioneer Village at the park entrance, where five log cabins now stand. The little settlement is growing rapidly. Two more cabins are going up, along with a log barn, where old fashioned farm equipment will be stored. One of the cabins dates back to 1822.

The cabin raising and fireplace construction will continue both days of the festival. Three of the cabins are furnished and are sure to be a prime attraction for many visitors to the park.

"It's not a money-making event," Park Supt. Keith Ruble explained, but a way to bring back the pioneer past and get people together to have a good time and enjoy early October weather.

Fall vegetables and fruits will abound, and for some old-fashioned eating, there'll be a bean dinner Saturday and beef stew Sunday, prepared by the Terre Haute North Vigo Band Boosters. The proceeds will be used for the NVHS band's trip to Miami and the Orange Bowl.

The Fort Minglewood Long Rifles will be on "volunteer

duty" all weekend, with displays and demonstrations. - Bullet making, rifle firing, erecting teepees and dressing and roasting hogs are on their schedule.

Junior Hunt and his Percherons will be on hand to take festival-goers on horse-drawn wagon rides through Fowler Park. Old-fashioned games and contests will be held, and maybe another tug-of-war across the water.

A flea market will also be held during Pioneer Days. Articles should be in keeping with the Pioneer Days theme. Ruble said, preferable handmade or natural, and displays of antiques are most welcome.

The fee will be \$3 per table and arrangements should be made by calling the county park department.

Admission to the park is free. Campers, however, are charged a small fee for hookups. There's also fishing and trails to bike.

Another scenic spot in Fowler Park is the covered bridge, built in 1845. It is believed to be the oldest one in the state. Ruble said. Formerly located in southeastern Vigo County, "Irishman's Bridge" was transferred to Fowler Park several years ago and adds a picturesque touch to the park.

For the adventures of all ages, an "Adventure Playground" is another attraction at Fowler Park.

Community Affairs File

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Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)

# 'Pioneer Days' at Fowler Park

T OCT 5 1973

By WAYNE PERRY  
Tribune Staff Writer

Many people today have never experienced the era of Sunday afternoon concerts in the park, making lye soap, or shooting marbles on a lazy afternoon.

In fact, one tends to think that those days are now only something that might be seen on television or in the movies.

But this weekend at Fowler Park, time will be turned back and the days of blacksmithing, spinning, and churning will return again.

The occasion for this revival of things past is the second annual "Pioneer Days," centering around the log cabin at Fowler Park south of Terre Haute.

As the Vigo County Park and

Recreation Department states in its news release, "Fall arrives in Vigo County and all of the magnificent colors come with it. As the pioneers had to make ready for the white winters by preserving food, finishing houses and animal shelters, the neighbors gathered to assist each other. It could be many weeks or months before they would visit again."

"To freshen your minds and make new friends and have pleasant memories to hold you through the winter, join us at Fowler Park to perhaps raise a cabin or join the shucking bee or shell corn and eat good country cooking."

The park is two miles off Highway 41 south. It has an authentic covered bridge built in 1845 and a log cabin, now refurnished, that once set on

the Erie Canal. The cabin is believed to have been built around 1822.

The celebration this weekend will honor Ben Lidster, 84-year-old Pierson Township resident, who has donated his log cabin to the park also.

Mrs. Jean Clutter, coordinator for Pioneer Days, reports that Lidster's cabin will be moved to the park in the near future from the site close to the route of the old Wabash and Erie Canal in Riley. The present cabin site is on the same 40 acres of farmland from which the present log cabin in Fowler Park came.

Max Miller, president of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department observed, "This weekend's festivities will show how our forefathers lived and survived. It is a recreation

of pioneer life made as authentic as possible."

Instead of reading about pioneer life, this Saturday one can experience such rustic pastimes as—

—Visiting a country market with many things to buy, sell or trade, such as coins, fossils, polished stones, homemade candles and dried flowers, pumpkins, gourds, popcorn and squash.

Watching Glenna Hanks make thread yarn from her spinning wheel.

—Observing ladies making lye soap, molding and dipping candles, churning butter and gathering around for a quilting bee (accompanied with all the latest news of "courtin' and such").

—Attending an old fashioned bean and cornbread dinner pre-

pared by the Prairie Creek Home Economics Club and served to visitors.

—Eating homemade cakes, pies, candy, and fancy breads.

—Amazing at the town blacksmith's pride in his fine workmanship with the anvil and forge.

—Riding around the park in a pony-drawn covered wagon.

—Playing games, pitching horse shoes, shooting marbles, pitching nickles for old dishes and square dancing way into the night.

On top of all these events, a four-time state champion fiddler with the Wabash Wranglers will "call" a few rounds as the young-at-heart hoof it round the dance floor. Those that survive the afternoon's championship

Continued On Page 2, Col. 4.

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tug of war can rest their tired muscles while listening to the tuneful artists.

On Sunday more old time entertainment will follow a morning "prayer meeting." Visitors that day can expect —

—a demonstration of muzzle loading and a shooting match.

—a chicken and noodles dinner served at noon, with other treats such as fresh grown vegetables, kraut, cider, sarsaparilla, homemade ice cream and taffy.

—costume judging of extension club members who will don the authentic clothing of pioneers.

—an afternoon concert (2 p.m.) featuring the Terre Haute City Band.

—barbershop singing with quartets and choruses to make the rafters ring.

(over)



As a spokesman for the Park Department suggested. "The life of a pioneer was not all work — there was much play for young and old, and now area residents can have a chance to re-create those nostalgic times of days gone by."

One final reminder of the "good old days" is the free admission to the park.



**THE GOOD DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN** — Pioneer Days at Fowler Park on Saturday and Sunday will re-create the days of Terre Haute's early settlement. Coordinator for the program, Mrs. Jean Clutter, is pictured as she gathers fall produce for a display. The log cabin at Fowler Park, center for the weekend festivities, is visible in the background. The park is located south of Terre Haute, two miles east of U.S. 41. There is no admission charge to the facility.

House of Photography Photo



# Fowler Park alive with activity during Pioneer Days weekend

OCT. 4 1979

Community Affairs File

Parks & Recreation (Vigo)

By CAROLYN TOOPS  
Tribune Staff Writer

Mother Nature and the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department are cooperating to make the seventh annual Pioneer Days at Fowler Park Saturday and Sunday a colorful weekend.

The leaves have been turning, the persimmons are ripening, and there may be a nip of fall in the air, courtesy of Mother Nature. The county park department, under the leadership of Superintendent Keith Ruble, has been doing its part, too, to prepare for the weekend activities. Attendance is expected to run into the thousands.

The featured attraction is the pioneer village near the park entrance. The settlement includes six log cabins, a bank barn, and a smokehouse.

Park employees and Green Thumb workers have been building the smokehouse for the past several weeks. If it is not completed in time for Pioneer Days, Ruble and others will probably chink the logs to demonstrate that skill sometime during the weekend.

Since the inception of Pioneer Days, Ruble has stressed authenticity

in his efforts to make the little village as close to actual pioneer ways of the 1800s as possible.

Park personnel, including Park Board President Max G. Miller, all will be dressed in clothing similar to that worn by early settlers.

Two areas of the park will be devoted to flea markets. Chet Burkeybyle, assistant park superintendent, said Wednesday approximately 50 tables have been reserved. Items for sale will include antiques, art works, rocks, fossils, vegetables and home made pastries.

At the log barn, Virginia Kennedy and Dorothy Turner have prepared, for the second year, displays featuring early Vigo County pioneer families. The historical exhibits were very popular last year, Burkeybyle noted.

At the covered bridge, several artists will set up their easels and some of their works.

For those who don't want to bother bringing picnic fare to the festival, hearty midwestern food will be served by the Pimento Volunteer Fire Department both days — ham and beans Saturday, at 11 a.m. and beef stew Sunday.

The String-A-Longs will entertain

with country music both afternoons. Horse-drawn wagon rides will be available all day Saturday and Sunday.

Burkeybyle also hinted that a well-known political figure of the 60s had indicated he would be at the park at about 1 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday to discuss issues of the day.

Parking will be across the road from Fowler Park and in the beach area. A shuttle will bring visitors to the village from the parking area across the lake.

Among those demonstrating particular pioneer skills or crafts will be Ruble, splitting logs; Rance Clawson, park manager, and Earl Slavens, shingle making and other wood crafts; and Donna Miller, spinning.

The Fort Minglewood Long Rifles will also participate in the 1979 Pioneer Days.

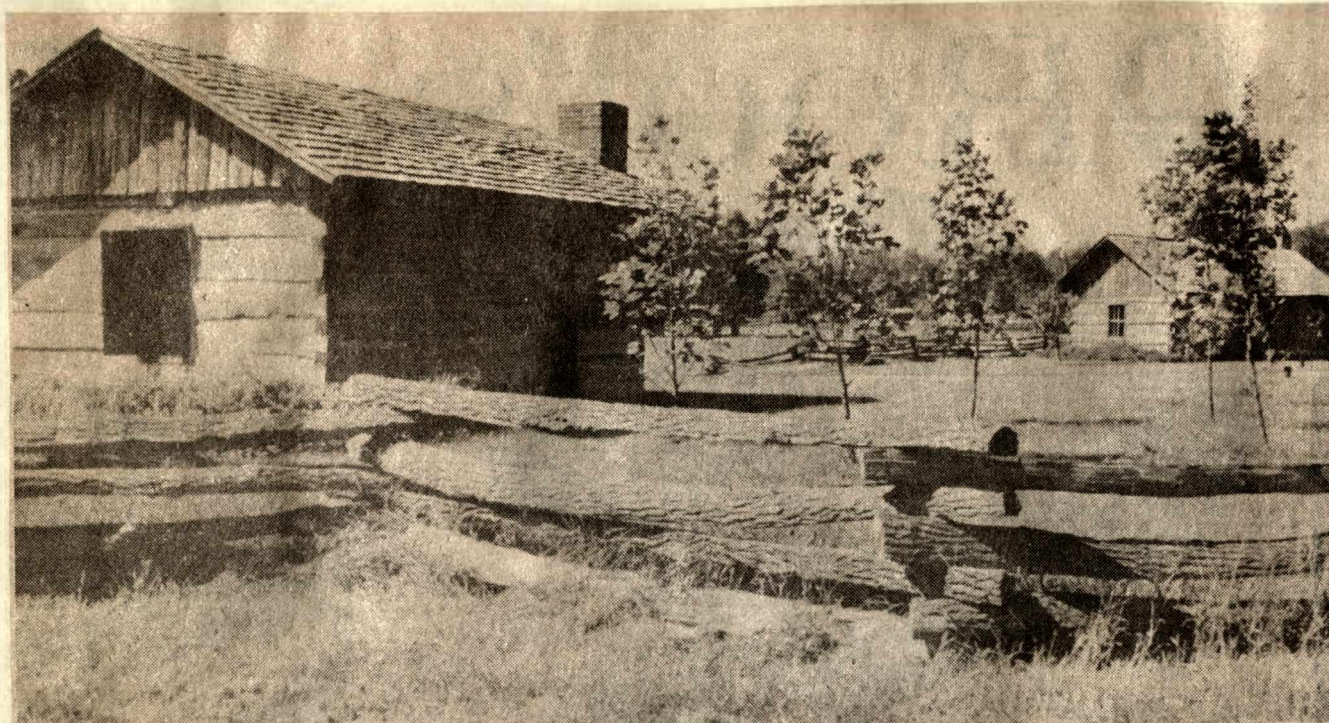
Admission to the park is free. Fowler Park is about 6 miles south of Terre Haute, off U.S. 41.

Community Affairs File

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**PIONEER DAYS** — The little Pioneer Village at Fowler Park will be bustling with activity this weekend as the seventh annual Pioneer Days fall festival gets under way. Demonstrations of crafts and skills of bygone days, a historical display featuring Vigo County pioneer families, a flea

market, and the early fall scenery are the big attractions. Fowler Park, operated by the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, is located about 10 miles south of Terre Haute, a short distance from U.S. 41.

House of Photography



NOV 25 1976

# Ruble 'Giving Thanks' for Cabin

By CAROLYN TOOPS  
Tribune Staff Writer

Keith Ruble, RR 23, is making his way back to olden days and olden ways armed with a double bladed felling ax and a broad hewing ax.

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Superintendent's personal philosophical statement doesn't really require many words. Just watch him as he proceeds with his self-appointed task of building a log cabin "from scratch."

Some of his best friends said it couldn't be done, that Ruble "would never finish." But he has already hewn 47 poplar logs (acquired from the Thompson Ditch project) which took about three hours each, and has thus won a wager with County Park Board president Max Miller. Miller owes Ruble a case of root beer, Ruble's favorite beverage.

"I decided to hew the logs myself, because in this part of the country, if you don't, the logs tend to rot faster due to the frequent freezing, thawing and shedding," Ruble explained.

Some 41 logs are used in the cabin itself, with the rest for the porch. The story-and-a-half cabin is 23 feet long and 18 feet wide. The windows and doors will be cut out after the logs are all in place, as early settlers did.

At present, Ruble is working to get the rafters up and a roof on before winter sets in. He'll finish the roof in the spring, splitting a big red dead oak given him by Dr. Edgar Hunt from his yard, to make the shingles.

The Rubles plan to have Thanksgiving dinner next year in the "new" cabin, with Susie Ruble doing some old-fashioned cooking. She's been most tolerant of the construction project,

which her husband began a year ago, and will make curtains and a braided rug later.

Dr. Hunt will contribute two bunk beds, and Fox Burns, a Park Board member, an iron kettle.

Phase II of Ruble's long-range building program includes a kitchen on the north end of the cabin, and Phase III another building log building nearby for maple syrup making (another of Ruble's interests). Landscaping calls for flowers and an herb garden.

Why the interest? Ruble really "got into log cabins" when the Pioneer Village at Fowler Park began several years ago. So he decided to build his own on his 31 acres south of Terre Haute. A bout with hepatitis sidelined him for a while during the summer, but he's making good progress.

Except for some assistance from Ray

Deckelmire, a retired postman, in getting the logs in place, Ruble has done all the work on the cabin himself.

For the chinking, he'll use a combination of chicken wire, styrofoam and concrete mortar, with a dash of colored dye to resemble aged clay. The floor, with four-to-six inch boards, will be laid on two-by-eight poplar floor joists.

Fireplace plans are tentative. Ruble hasn't decided yet whether to use creekstone or red brick.

Besides building a heritage for future generations, Ruble says he'll use the cabin as a guest house; for parties for children in the area and as a "terminal" for hayrides and similar parties, and as a "retreat" for his good friend Fox Burns.

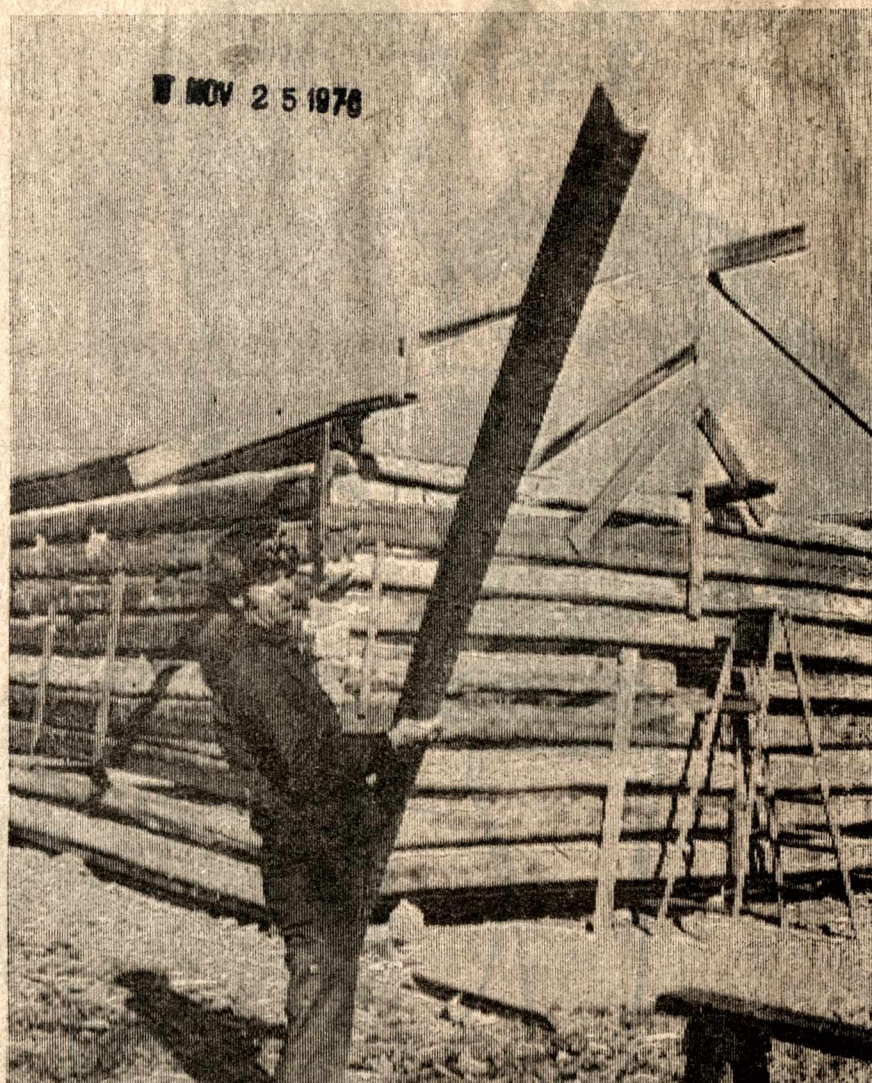
And that's really thinking about others, which is a pleasant thought this Thanksgiving Day.

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**THE KEITH RUBLE FAMILY, RR 23, will enjoy a 1977 Thanksgiving dinner in this log cabin, if Keith has his way. The Vigo County Park and Recreation Superintendent decided to build his own log cabin "from scratch" and will have the roof on before winter sets in. Ruble "got into log cabins" when the first one was reconstructed at Fowler Park several years ago. He's using poplar logs obtained from the Thompson Ditch project and has done all the hewing himself, using a double bladed felling ax and an old fashioned broad hewing ax. Doors and windows will be cut out when it's done, as in olden days, Ruble said. He often wears this coonskin hat, made by Paris, Ill., furrier Eugene Trefz, when working on the cabin.**

**House of Photography Photo**



# Sunshine and fun sparkle for kids at Camp Clover

T s JUN 1 2 1983

Park & Recreation (T.K.)

By Charles Maloof  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Camp Clover, now in its 14th year, provides an adventure in outdoor living for inner-city elementary school age youngsters through July 21 at Fowler Park.

Some 66 youths a week, ages six to 12, from Harrison Township are having fun and enjoying the sunshine from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the camp. No fees are charged.

"It is the primary intent of this program to provide the youth of this area opportunities to attend informal outdoor learning sessions," said John T. Hancewicz, Vigo County youth extension agent and camp coordinator. "Our emphasis is on helping the needy and to teach the kids something they didn't know and how to use it."

Those attending also can develop a chain of creativity through songs, crafts, recreation, outdoor cooking and nature, he added.

Camp Clover is sponsored by the Vigo County Extension Office and Harrison Township Trustee E. Nick Peters and his advisory board of Leonard Conrad, John Brentlinger and Paul Schoffstall Jr. "This is the

third year for the trustee's office to sponsor it," Hancewicz said. "Their funding is very important, it makes our program go — hopefully revenue sharing will be around next year so we can continue the camp."

He said the program, which began May 31, is geared for development of loco-motor movement, cooperation, socialization, skill improvement, adaptability of the child and an intense effort on the part of human relations.

Over 130 applications were received for many of the weeks of the eight-week camp, but a first come, first served basis prevailed, Hancewicz said. "This is the first year we had an over amount of applications from the 16 schools and housing units we contacted," he said. "This is due to the present economical climate and to some kids, this is their only vacation trip."

The first week in May, Hancewicz delivered the camp reply cards to Warren, Fuqua, Deming, Meadows, Franklin, Ouabache, Fairbanks, University, DeVaney, Sugar Grove, Davis Park, Greenwood, Terre Town and Crawford elementary schools, and Lockport and Margaret Avenue Housing units.

"Parents gave us a good response with some even bringing their chil-

dren to the extension office to sign up," Hancewicz said. "Some of the kids have come back for several years."

Buses pick up the campers between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. each day for the journey to Fowler Park. There, recreational activities include swimming, arts and crafts, nature studies and games. "We also have one-hour a day of formal education for them," Hancewicz said. "Hamilton Center has presented many programs concerning juvenile topics."

A balanced nutritional free lunch and a snack is provided for the youngsters before they return home between 3 and 4 p.m.

Joe Etling, a junior at Wabash College, is director of Camp Clover. His staff includes six counselors and a cook. The counselors are enrolled at Indiana State University, Indiana University or Purdue University. "They all are doing a great job," Hancewicz said. "In addition to helping the kids, they're getting valuable experience from the camp."

The campers are expected to follow park and camp rules at all times, or they will be asked not to return to Camp Clover next year, Hancewicz said.

Fowler Park

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Community Affairs File



'Sharing the holiday spirit'

# Christmas at Fowler Park recalls simpler celebration

By KATHY GURCHIEK

Staff Writer

Fowler Park's first Pioneer Christmas, celebrated Sunday, was a marked change from blue artificial trees with flashing lights, E.T. dolls and amplified blarings of "Jingle Bell Rock."

Greenery, laced with strings of popcorn, stood in a stone crock. A cornhusk doll lay tucked inside a handcrafted wooden cradle. The simple strain of "Silent Night" flowed from a zither.

Costumed volunteers in five of the park's log cabins portrayed the simple celebration of an Indiana Christmas in 1865 — 10 years before Christmas became a legal holiday in Indiana.

Outside, food in iron pots cooked over coals, while candles on stick poles served as crude street lamps.

"I think today that Christmas is highly overdone and it can be fun the old way," said Marie Fox, one of the "pioneers."

"We feel like we're helping to give Christmas to other people. We think it's important (for children) to see how simple" Christmas used to be, she said.

The "pioneers" devoted serious effort to developing realism. Warming himself by the fire, Conrad Fox coaxed "Silent Night" out of a zither. In a corner, two young girls, heads cov-

*Editor's Note: The holiday season has different meanings for different people. The common theme is sharing. Beginning today, The Tribune offers a holiday series "Sharing the holiday spirit." The stories are based on people who have taken that little extra step to help other people feel better during the holiday season. The series continues through Christmas Day.*

ered with dusters, huddled in a wooden bed, squabbling.

Its inhabitants of German and French ancestry, the Fox cabin was more festive than some. Hawthorn berries, yarn angels, candles and paper snowmen, trees and stars decked a seven-foot cedar tree. Pine was not common then.

A wooden wagon made by Conrad Fox, a cornhusk doll tucked inside a handcrafted cradle and miniature iron cooking utensils lay beneath the tree.

Other cabins appeared spartan in comparison.

Inside one cabin, seed pods, cornhusk angels and popcorn decked the "tree" — greenery in a stone crock. In another, cotton, ribbon and berries were among the decorations.

Simple fare of squash, oranges and apples, pies and bread, would be the Christmas feast for one family. Fat

candles lit the dark cabin. Soft music from a dulcimer filled the air in another.

In the Sweet Sisters cabin, a wooden music box atop a cupboard played "O Tannenbaum."

"Yes, we're going to have a feast tonight," said one sister, greeting visitors.

A feast indeed. Noodle broth bubbled on the stove, and the table was laden with pies, cake, oranges, bread and butter, hickory nuts and popcorn with "sweeten."

Phyllis warned men of her spinster sister on the loose. While she talked, the sister returned from a futile search in the village.

"I had me a man for awhile, but I ran into his wife, and that was tacky," said the bread basket-toting woman. "But everyone has their eye out for me," she said, munching a piece of the bread she used as proof of her baking skill.

She asked another "if he wanted to count my teeth," but he was less than enthusiastic.

Her motto — "I say if you have to hold 'em, hold 'em by force." Defeat failed to diminish her energy, and she was once more on the loose, leaving her shawled sisters to greet visitors.

"Welcome. Nice to have you come and visit. Everybody's working. Going to have a grand time. Pa killed a hog for us ..."

Community Affairs File  
Parks & Recreation Dept.

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Community Affairs File



# Pioneer Village Major Parks' Goal

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Community Affairs File

Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co.)

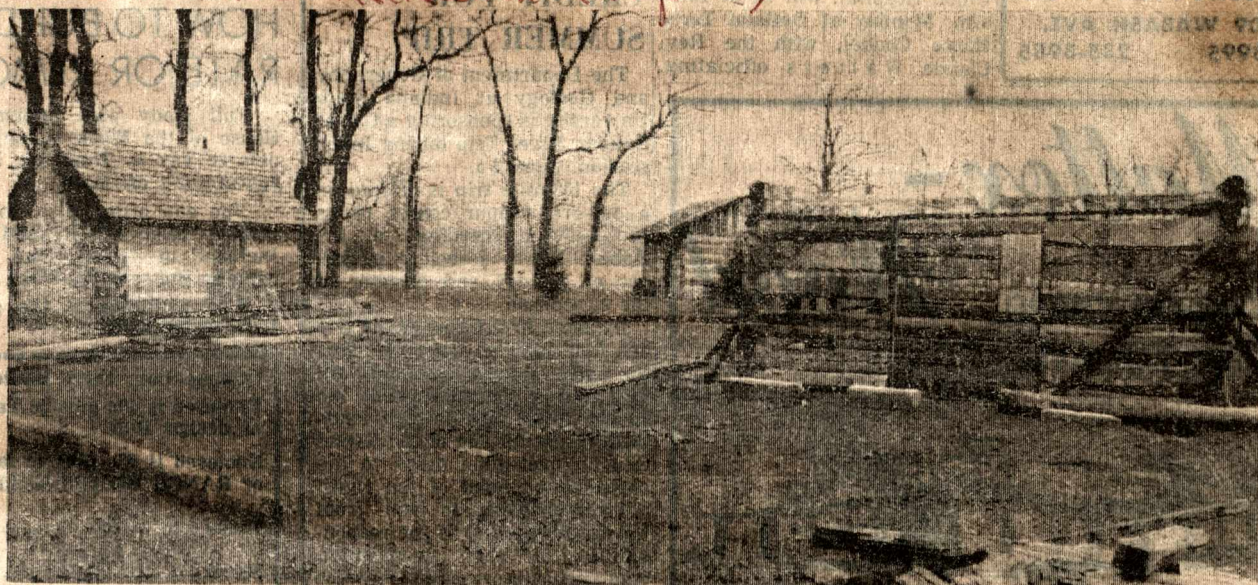
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first in a series of three articles outlining plans and some of the accomplishments of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department during 1974 and since its establishment in 1967.

By JESS WILLIAMS  
Star Assistant Editor

"Establish a park and recreation system that will serve all people, young, teen, adult, senior citizen, healthy or handicapped, in Vigo County."

That is the philosophy of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department (VCPRD), and that is exactly what some very able and sincerely interested Vigo Countians are striving to accomplish.

A five-year master plan with 20-year increment was completed in 1972. The plan calls for one multi-purpose park to



See **PARKS**

On Page 3, Column 4

**PIONEER VILLAGE** — Two completed hand-hewn log cabins and another about one-third completed are shown on the tentatively planned Pioneer Village site at Fowler Park,

south of the city. The village is one of several projects underway by the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department. (Photo by Kadel)

Community Affairs File

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## SPRING 6 1975 Parks

Continued From Page 1

be built in each corner of Vigo County so there would be a recreational facility within a ten to fifteen minute drive for any Vigo County resident.

Along with multi-purpose parks are single-purpose facilities such as play grounds and nature areas.

+ + +

The most recent amendment to the master plan adds the mini-park concept to rural recreationally void communities.

Since establishment of the VCPRD in 1967, two multi-purpose parks and one recreation center have been opened. One old school house has been restored for historical and educational purposes and some small playgrounds are in the making.

The county park department now maintains approximately 350 acres, and conservation of natural resources are of primary concern to the department, according to Keith Ruble, VCPRD superintendent. The department feels that recreational development should not be at the cost of conservation, and Ruble added "The conservation of the resources in our parks assures generations of use by people, with little damage to those resources."

+ + +

Pioneer Village is one of the projects generating a lot of enthusiasm in the department, the city and the Wabash Valley as a whole. The village, being erected at Fowler Park, will display early American homes, life styles, tools and accessories for the purpose of education and historic purposes for school children and adults, according to Ruble.

Plans are to have a guide take groups on tour through the village and explain early American life.

Several items have already been donated for the village project, Ruble said, but much more is needed. The aim is educational and recreational so that persons of Vigo County will be more aware how the settlers lived, worked and used their time.

The Pioneer Fall Festival is held annually at the Village site and is designed to bring back the Early American life with authentic tools, displays, handicrafts and fun for the whole family to enjoy. The event is held the first weekend in October.

+ + +

At present there are two hand-hewn log cabins completely restored and a third cabin about one-third reconstructed, according to Chester "Chet" Burkeybyle, assistant superintendent.

Tentative plans call for two or three more log cabins of two-story structure, a log barn to house pioneer type farm equipment to show school children and the public, an old trading post, a school house, an old church and a blacksmith shop. Both sides of the road will be used according to Burkeybyle

and the village will cover about four acres.

The assistant parks superintendent says that Tony Taglia, Seelyville, a retired milkman has offered to help plan the village for authenticity. Anyone who is interested helping with the restoration by donation or talents are asked to call the Vigo Park Dept., 232-4074.

+ + +

Max Miller, Vigo County Extension Agent for Community Development, is president of the Park and Recreation Board. Other members include Ruel F. Burns Sr., Susan McCarthy, John Etling, Everett "Bud" Spence and the newest member, John Thompson, who was recently appointed by Judge C. Joseph Anderson. Boyd Schepper recently completed three terms of service on the board.

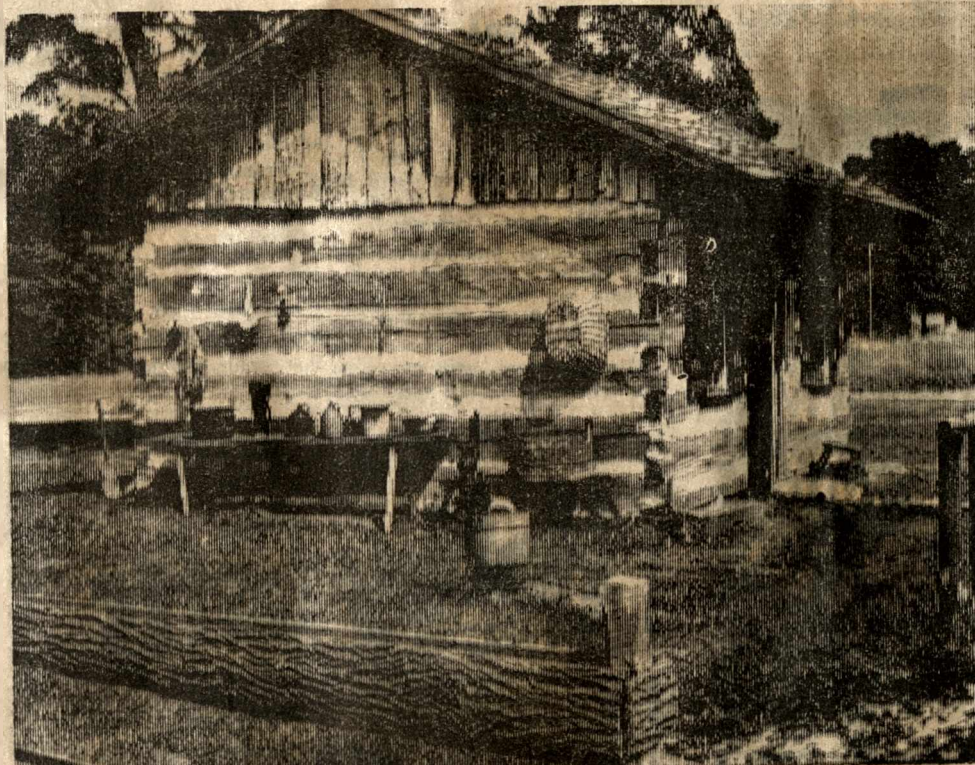
Mrs. Jane Alexander is secretary at the office located on the fourth floor at the courthouse. Cecelia McLean is director of the Glenn Recreation Center.

There are eight fulltime employes, two men working in the department under the Emergency Employment Act (EEA which terminates in March 1975) and several part-time employes, according to Burkeybyle. The number of part-time employes fluctuates during the different seasons, he added.

The offices in the department are appropriately decorated so that one thinks parks immediately upon entering. The yesteryear atmosphere is complete down to the old barn doors and latches. The interesting and attractive offices were completed in December 1973 and a great deal of the finishing work was done by Ruble, Burkeybyle and department employes.

**NEXT: Fowler Park, Prairie Creek Park, New Goshen School, Nature Areas and pilot Rural Recreation program.**





THE LOG CABIN WHICH stands at the entrance to Fowler Park will be the center of attention Oct. 7-8, when a two-day festival celebrates the cabin's 150th year on Vigo County soil. The cabin, which was reconstructed in 1970, was originally built in Riley Township about 1822.

House of Photography Photo.  
TS SEP 24 1972

## Gala Celebration to Mark 150th Year for Log Cabin

By **BARBARA L. BRUGNAUX**  
Tribune Staff Writer

Want to help a log cabin celebrate its 150th birthday?

It's easy enough to do. Just wander down to Fowler Park the weekend of Oct. 7-8 and partake in festivities that will observe the sesquicentennial of a log cabin which once stood on U.S. government grant land in what is now Riley Township.

All the old-fashioned methods that were so hard for the pioneers and seem so picturesque to spoiled Americans of the 1970s will be demonstrated by

appropriately garbed men and women. The arts of churning, quilting, candle-dipping, spinning and soap making are among the early 19th century customs that will be heralded during the weekend celebration.

Games will be on tap, too. Arm wrestling, hay pitches, corn shelling and nail driving are just a few of the sports and amusements that entertained Vigo County Pioneers in the 1820s and will attempt to do the same for Vigo County residents in 1972.

If corn shelling and nail driving sound like rather strange

games, sack races, pie-eating contests and taffy pulls will be conducted, too. Ignorance of the rules will not be an acceptable reason for non-participation.

For those who prefer to stroll around and look, or perhaps purchase a bit of Americana, there will be a flea market, home-made baked goods, jams and jellies, and of, course, freshly churned butter and buttermilk.

Wagon and hay rides, and square dancing will also enliven the two days of festivities.

Although the birthday party will take place at county-owned Fowler Park, organizer of the





A 100-YEAR-OLD WEDDING gown is one of the many items housed in a one-room log cabin at Fowler Park which will celebrate its 150th birthday Oct. 7-8. The fine batiste cotton and silk gown was completely hand sewn and embellished with hand tatted lace, according to Jean Clutter, who is source of many of the items in the cabin and organizer of the October celebration. House of Photography Photo.

event is Jean Clutter, who with her husband, Jack, operates the park's general store.

A descendant of one of Vigo County's pioneer families herself, Mrs. Clutter has taken over supervision of the log cabin which graces the entrance to Fowler Park.

The one-room cabin, which has a quite a history, is now crammed with furniture and bric-a-brac, some donated and some purchased by the Clutters.

Built in 1822 on land granted to John Jackson the year before, the cabin stood about 300 yards from the Wabash and Erie Canal. Eventually it was swallowed by the structure of a

larger house and became but one room of many, not to be discovered again until several years ago when the home of Dan and Iva Wood was torn down.

Donated to the county park department, the logs again took a familiar shape under the guidance of the American Federation of Teachers Local 734, but the building stood alone and empty until the Clutters took an interest in it.

In the last three months, at least 2,225 visitors have signed the cabin's guest book, a figure that hopefully will be doubled by the end of the birthday celebration.



# Fowler Park To Be Scene Of Festival

Is SEP 1 2 1976

Community Affairs File

By CAROLYN TOOPS

Tribune Staff Writer

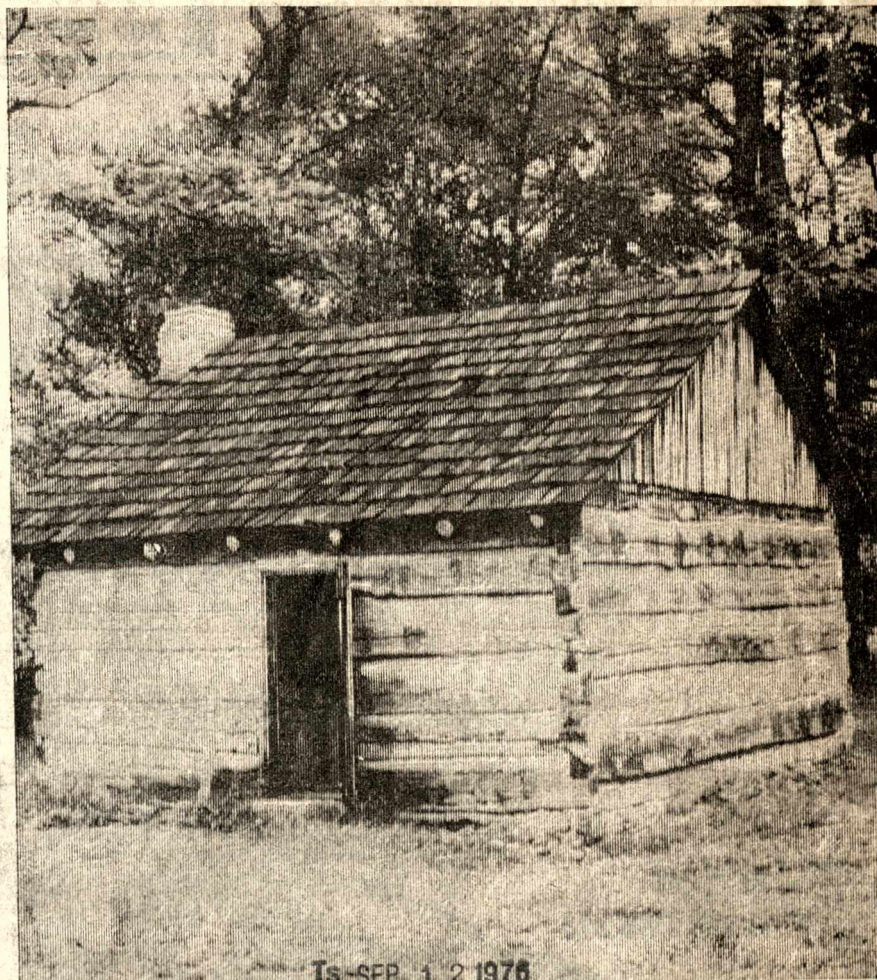
The "good ole days" are coming back, at least to Fowler Park about 10 miles south of Terre Haute, on Saturday, Oct. 2 and Sunday, Oct. 3, when the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department puts on the fourth annual "Pioneer Days" Festival.

Pioneer arts and crafts will again be demonstrated, and country fare will be abundant for those who visit the park.

A new addition to the Pioneer Village just at the entrance to Fowler Park is the log barn being reconstructed now. It was taken down, log by log, from the Cecil Shew farm at St. Bernice several months ago, and will be a welcome addition to the little village that's similar to the one at Spring Mill State Park.

Local park officials Keith Ruble, superintendent, and Chet Burkeybyle, assistant superintendent, have been diligent in their efforts to acquire authentic furnishings for the buildings, which date back to the early 1800s.

Displays and demonstrations promised for the fourth annual fest include hewing, shinglemaking, soap making, square dancing, candlemaking, butter churning, railsplitting, hog butchering, a flea market, quilting, park tours, bread making, caning, antiques, spinning, hominy making, blacksmithing and bullet making.



Is SEP 1 2 1976

**A SYMBOL OF THE GOOD OLE DAYS** — The "good ole days" will be re-created on Oct. 2 and 3 during the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department's fourth annual Pioneer Days Festival at Fowler Park. Various activities are being scheduled for the festival, with many of them centering on the Pioneer Village at the park. The original cabin that began the Pioneer Village is pictured.

House of Photography Photo

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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DO NOT CIRCULATE



Parker Rec. (W.V.)  
T s JUL 18 1984  
Community Affairs File

# Fowler village expanding

Big plans are being made for the pioneer village at Fowler Park. The 12th annual Pioneer Days will be conducted Oct. 6 and 7 with several changes in store for park visitors.

A new area will feature costumed craftsmen demonstrating their crafts and selling their wares. Also, the flea market has been changed to the Trader's Market, with more authentic merchandise and more of a pioneer atmosphere.

The Christmas Walk is scheduled for Dec. 7 and 8.

Next year, from June 1 to Oct. 1, the village may be open each weekend. The park department is considering hiring someone to open the cabins and to give tours. The department is also considering a live-in couple to be there each day in the summer. Regularly scheduled craft days and workshops are planned.

The department is looking for volunteers to help at the village, either skilled craftsmen or people wanting to help and to learn something new at the same time.

Potential volunteers can obtain information from Keith Ruble at the Vigo County Park Department. Applications for craftsmen and the Trader's Market will be accepted Aug. 1 to Sept. 1. To get an application, write the Vigo County Park & Recreation Department, 40 Courthouse, Terre Haute 47807 or call 238-8391.

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Community Affairs File



# Second Old Log Cabin Will Be Moved to Fowler Park

TS OCT 14 1973  
By CAROLYN TOOPS

Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department will reconstruct a second log cabin in Fowler Park soon, as part of a long-range project to re-create a Pioneer Village at the county park south of Terre Haute.

Superintendent Keith Ruble and assistant superintendent Chet Burkeybyl are completing plans to move a log cabin, believed to date to the 1820s, from Riley to Fowler Park. The cabin has been donated to the county park department by Ben Lidster, 84, who recently moved to Pierson Township to live with his nephew, Harold Baker, and Mrs. Baker.

Lidster had lived in the story and a half dwelling since 1935. Several changes, including siding, storm windows, and a small front porch, were made in the building over the years but when it is moved to its new home, it will have the 1820s look restored.

After the siding is removed, the enormous task of dismantling and numbering each log will begin, under the supervision of Charles Hord Ray, RR 1, West Terre Haute.

Other volunteers are urgently needed to assist in all phases of "Project Log Cabin No. 2" are asked to call the Park Department office in advance. The Park Department will provide the necessary tools for the dismantling and will use their trucks to haul the logs to Fowler Park.

Ruble suggests that volunteers wear work clothes and shoes and bring work gloves to the site. Taking the cabin down will require three or four days, he estimates.

Mr. Ray will provide guidance and supervision for park officials with the diagrams, instructions on how to mark the logs and in carrying out the reconstruction. He is also expected to supervise the mixing of the special mortar that will be required to put the cabin back together.

Meanwhile, Ruble and Burkeybyl have been acquiring suitably aged and worn lumber to be incorporated into the "new" cabin. A simple foundation will be set, based upon the

flooring system used in the early 1800s, Ruble said.

The Lidster cabin was originally 15 feet by 15 feet, one room on ground level and one room above. An addition of several feet was made on the back of the house during the years.

The summer kitchen on the Lidster property in Riley was probably added much later, Ruble thinks. It will not be reconstructed at Fowler Park, but instead an effort will be made to restore the smokehouse back of the Lidster cabin as part of the Pioneer Village, with hides on the wall and other paraphernalia used then.

It will cost about \$3,000 for

materials (mortar, new foundation and use of the park trucks and equipment) to reconstruct the cabin, park officials estimate.

The Lidster cabin will join the Dubbs cabin near the entrance to Fowler Park, and the whole area is expected to be the scene of a bigger and better annual fall Pioneer Festival. Last weekend the second annual Pioneers Days was held, attracting thousands of visitors to Fowler Park.

It will take time, but the beginnings of an authentic Pioneer Village, similar to the one at Spring Mill State Park, are present.

Several other buildings are needed to make it all complete, and if you just happen to have or know of a one-room general store or an old log church... well, the Vigo County Park Department is interested!

Vigo County Public Library  
Community Affairs File

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continued on back





**UNDERNEATH, THERE'S A LOG CABIN**—This story-and-a-half log cabin in Riley has been donated to the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department by Ben Lidster, 84, whose home it has been since 1935. He moved recently into the home of his nephew, Raymond Baker, and Mrs. Baker, in Pierson Township. Chet Burkeybile, assistant superintendent of the county park department, was out at the cabin this week to make plans to move it, log by log, to Fowler Park, where it will be reconstructed as part of a long-range project to re-create a pioneer village. The Dubbs cabin, near the park entrance, is the first building to be reconstructed at this site.

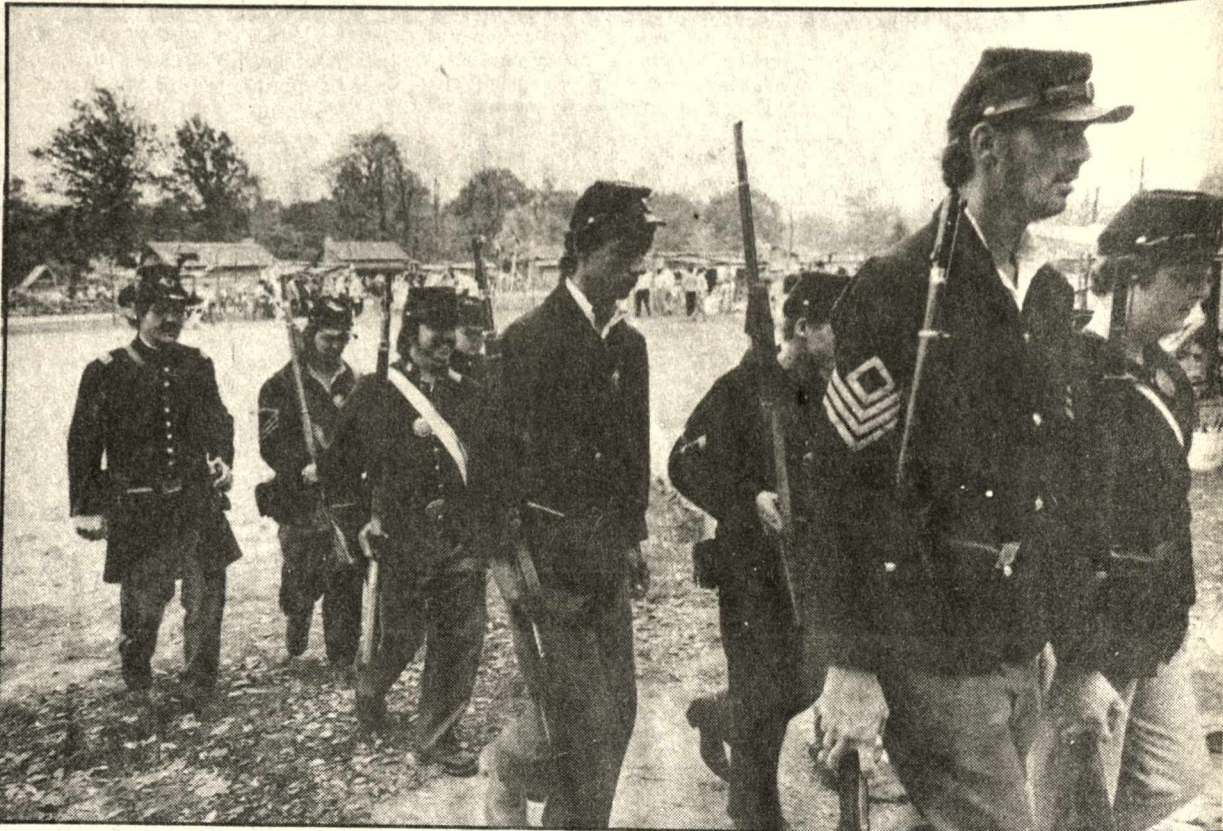
House of Photography Photo.



Features

Community Affairs File

# Pioneer Days



Heading to battle: Yankee soldiers.

Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter



Defending the south: Marching to the action.

## Festival continues

By John Halladay  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

T OCT 7 1984

If fall is your favorite time, you can be happy you live in the Wabash Valley, where the season is marked by a multitude of festivals.

The 12th annual Pioneer Days Festival at Fowler Park south of Terre Haute, for example, is expected to attract some 10,000 people, according to Keith Ruble, superintendent for the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department.

The festival began Friday and ends at 5 p.m. today. Those who have not taken a recent drive in the country may not know it, but the leaves are starting their yearly change to shades of yellow, orange and red. Smaller plants — weeds to some — continue to put forth their blossoms of blue and purple.

The changing colors alone make the 11-mile trip south along U.S. 41 from Terre Haute well worth the trouble.

At the park, the smell of wood smoke fills the air from fires heating kettles of beans or apple butter. A brisk wind off the lake makes you wish you'd worn a sweater.

Crowds of people in casual dress meander past more than 100 displays of crafts or booths offering things for sale.

Ruble, taking a break from showing how to hew logs for pioneer houses, says he's trying to make the festival more authentic every year.

"This is a nice thing for families. The kids may see something new," George Becker, a retired county agent, said at the sorghum mill down the way from where Ruble was chopping.

A black Percheron horse, hitched to a beam, treads counterclockwise around the mill, squeezing out the sweetish green sorghum juice.

In the old days, 10 gallons of juice would be boiled down to make one gallon of molasses sweetener. Molasses was used by folks in the Midwestern and Southern states in place of expensive sugar.

Another line of work still pursued by some today is sheep shearing. Bill Harshbarger shows the onlookers how, grasping a placid-seeming sheep and shearing off the fleece.

"You keep 'em off balance," Harshbarger says when asked how he does it. "And you eliminate the wrinkles so you won't cut 'em."

The sheep gets a small belly nick, but Harshbarger tells the children present that barbers may sometimes nick their clients, too. The children chortle.

Other displays include blacksmithing, fiddling, candle-dipping and cloth-dyeing. There also is a Civil War camp and re-enactment of a skirmish, with much shooting and hallooing.

Admission to the festival is free.



Hatchet throw: J.D. Bowden.



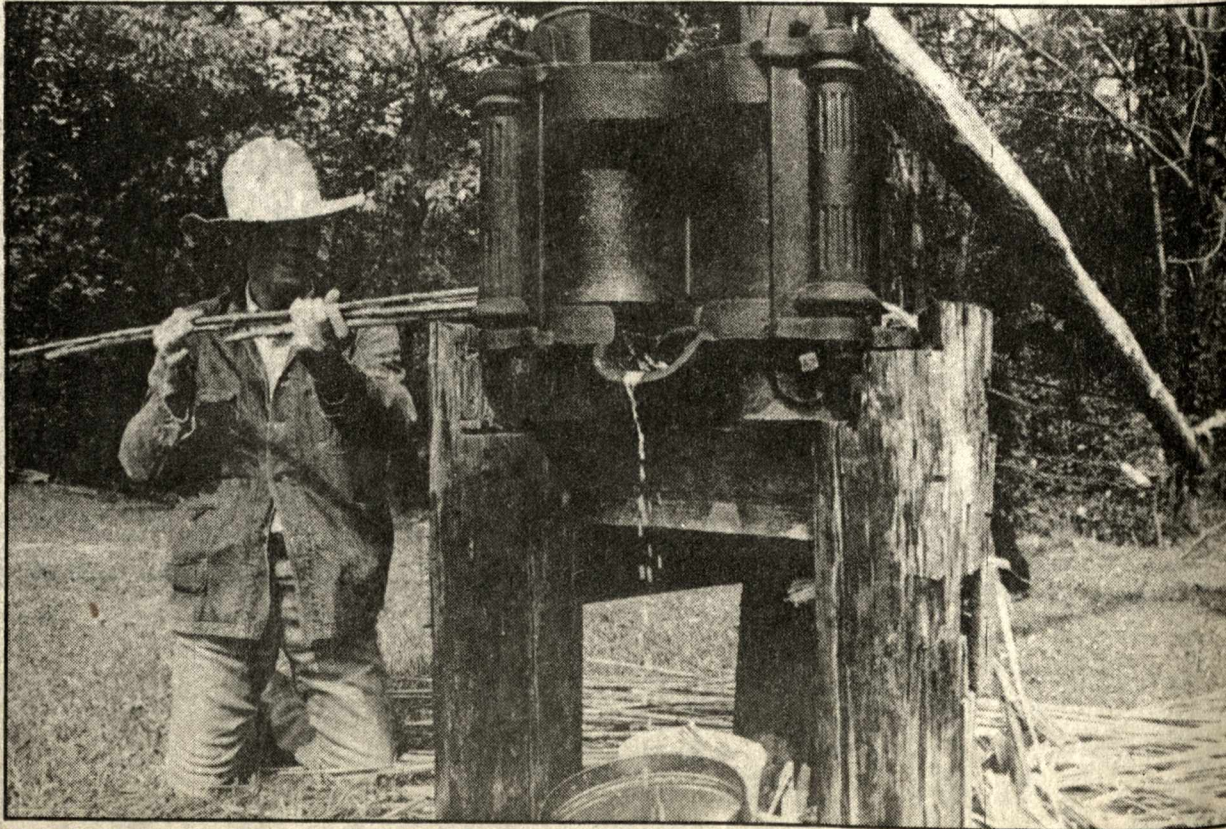
Aubrey Williams: Village blacksmith.



Crafts on sale: At the covered bridge.



Making brooms: Jim Bouillez shows how its done.



Producing sorghum: George Decker.



Living style: Attracts visitors.



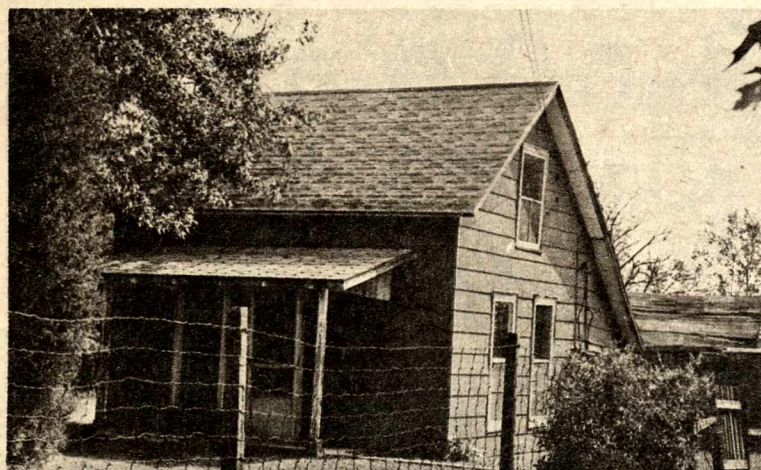
# THE MAKING OF A PIONEER VILLAGE

Ts MAY 4 1975

Community Affairs File

Long-range plans of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department include an authentic pioneer village at Fowler Park, and the project is well under way... these two log cabins have been reconstructed, and a third is partially complete... the Park Department has acquired two more... Adding to the atmosphere is a covered bridge, built in 1845, which was reassembled at Fowler Park several years ago... The Pioneer Village, located near the park entrance, is the scene of an annual fall festival, Pioneer Days, which has been gaining in popularity since the first one was held in 1973.

House of Photography.



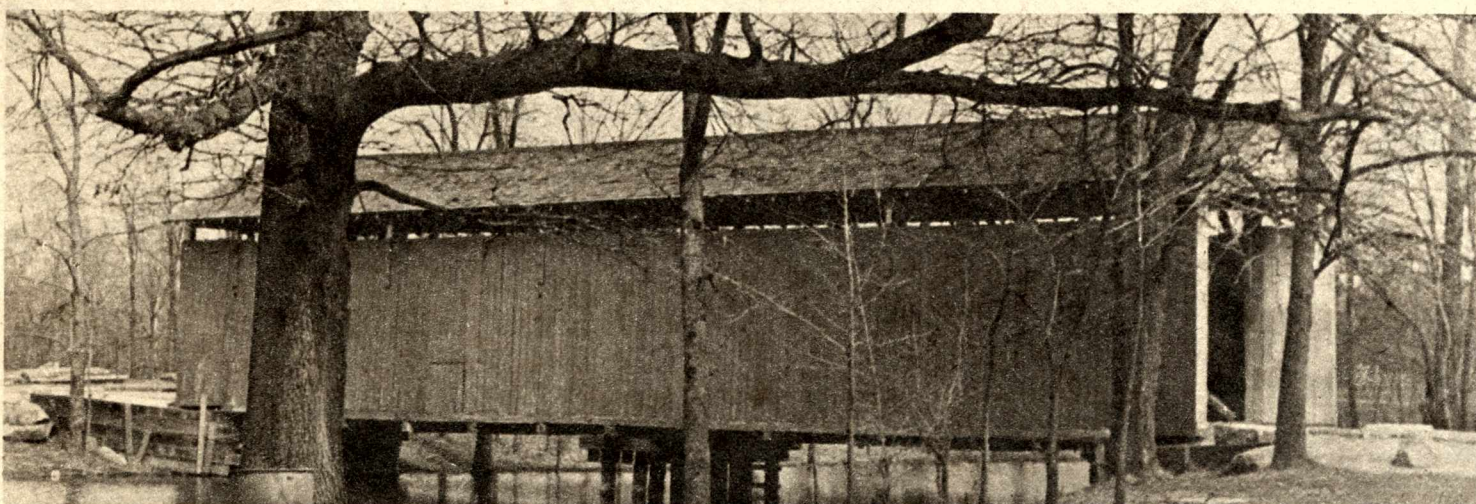
UNDERNEATH THE SHINGLES of this story-and-a-half house is an authentic log cabin built in the 1820s. Formerly located in Riley, it was for many years the residence of Ben Lidster, who donated the structure to the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department in 1973. The siding was removed and the cabin itself was transferred, log by log, to Fowler Park, where it was reconstructed.

MEMBERS OF THE TERRE HAUTE JAYCEES gave generously of their time and effort to help the Park Department dismantle the Lidster cabin in Riley...



COUNTY PARK BOARD PRESIDENT MAX MILLER, top left, joined Jaycees and Park Department employees one winter Sunday to take the Lidster cabin apart for transportation to Fowler Park...

DOWN SHE GOES... When the Jaycees assembled a work crew, it didn't take very long to get the job done...



IRISHMAN'S BRIDGE, built in 1845, was "transplanted" from its former location in southeastern Vigo County to Fowler Park and is a major attraction for visitors. It is located near the Pioneer Village.



ON "CABIN LOWERING" DAY, the workers were treated to a Hoosier favorite, ham and beans, cooked outdoors in a big kettle... Chefs included Park Superintendent Keith Ruble and assistant superintendent Chef Burkebyble. The young lady is Carmen Miller, daughter of Park Board President and Mrs. Max Miller...

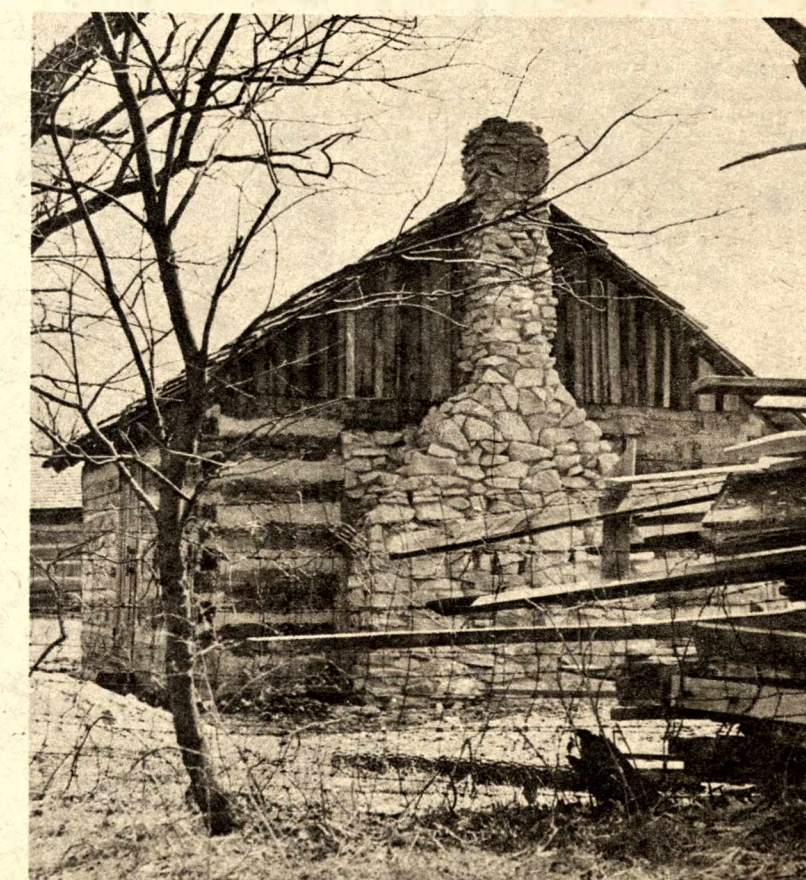


LOGS IN THE CABIN were heavy... Jaycees load Park Department truck which made several trips to Fowler Park when the Lidster cabin was torn down in Riley...



UP SHE GOES... It took much longer for the cabin to go up... Here, Michael Wulfeck, a Park Department employee, works on the plastering... The "recipe" for the special plaster came from Charles Hord Ray, who has had considerable experience with restoration of log cabins...

THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS the completed chimney on the Lidster cabin. The first cabin was donated to the Vigo County Park Department by Mrs. Lillian Dubbs of Terre Haute and was built about 153 years ago. Her parents were neighbors of the Lidsters. The houses were originally located in a village called Lockport, on a site close to the route of the old Wabash and Erie Canal in Riley.

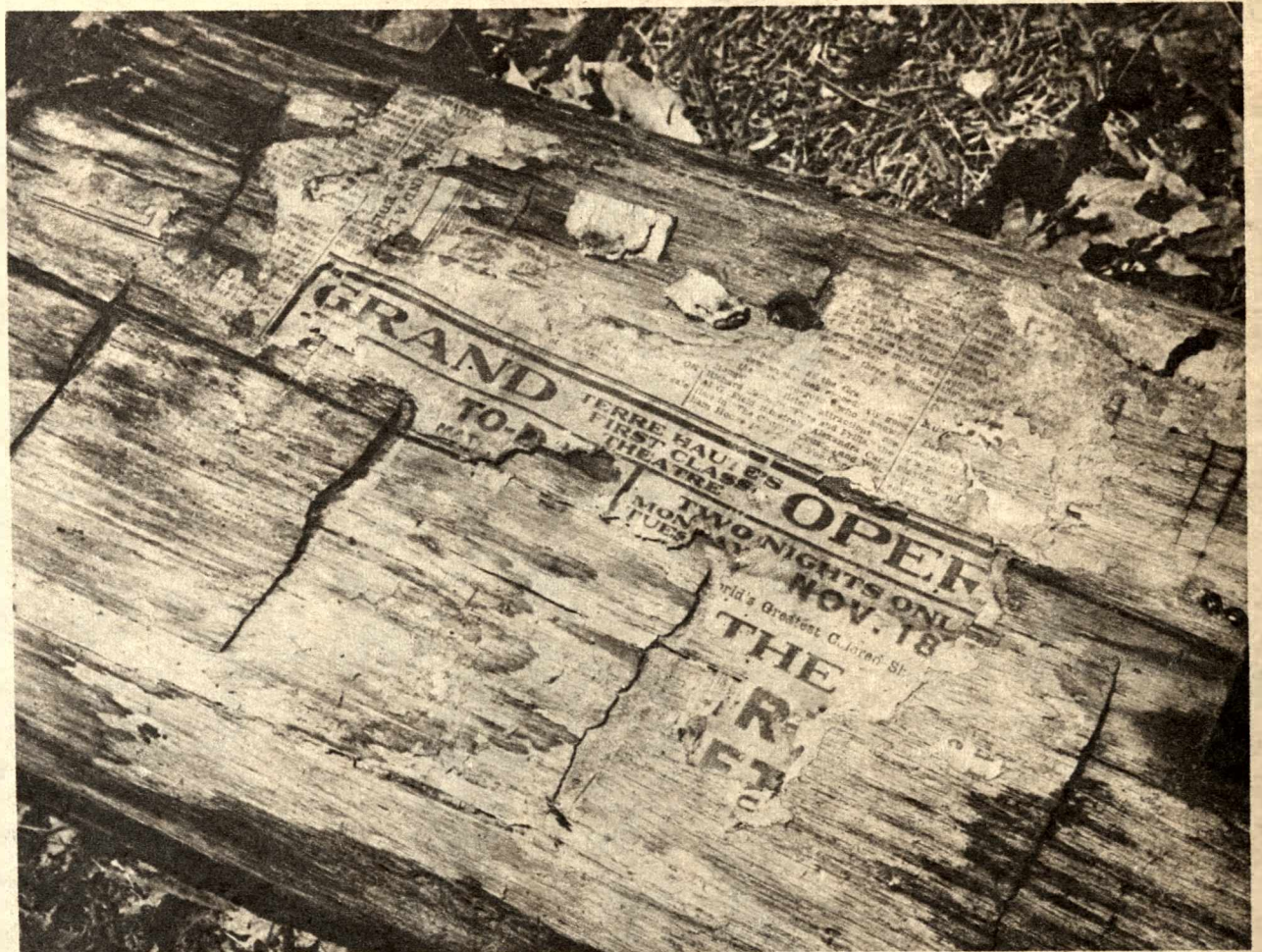


Terre Haute Tribune-Star, May 4, 1975.

Terre Haute Tribune-Star, May 4, 1975.



OLD NEWSPAPERS used for wall-paper were found inside the Lidster cabin when it was dismantled . . . this was torn and the year could not be discerned . . .



ANOTHER GROUP GATHERED at the reconstructed Lidster cabin in Fowler Park one Saturday to build the fireplace... these young men were in an apprentice bricklayers class of Bricklayers Local 5 and got this special "on the job training" in addition to performing a valuable community service.



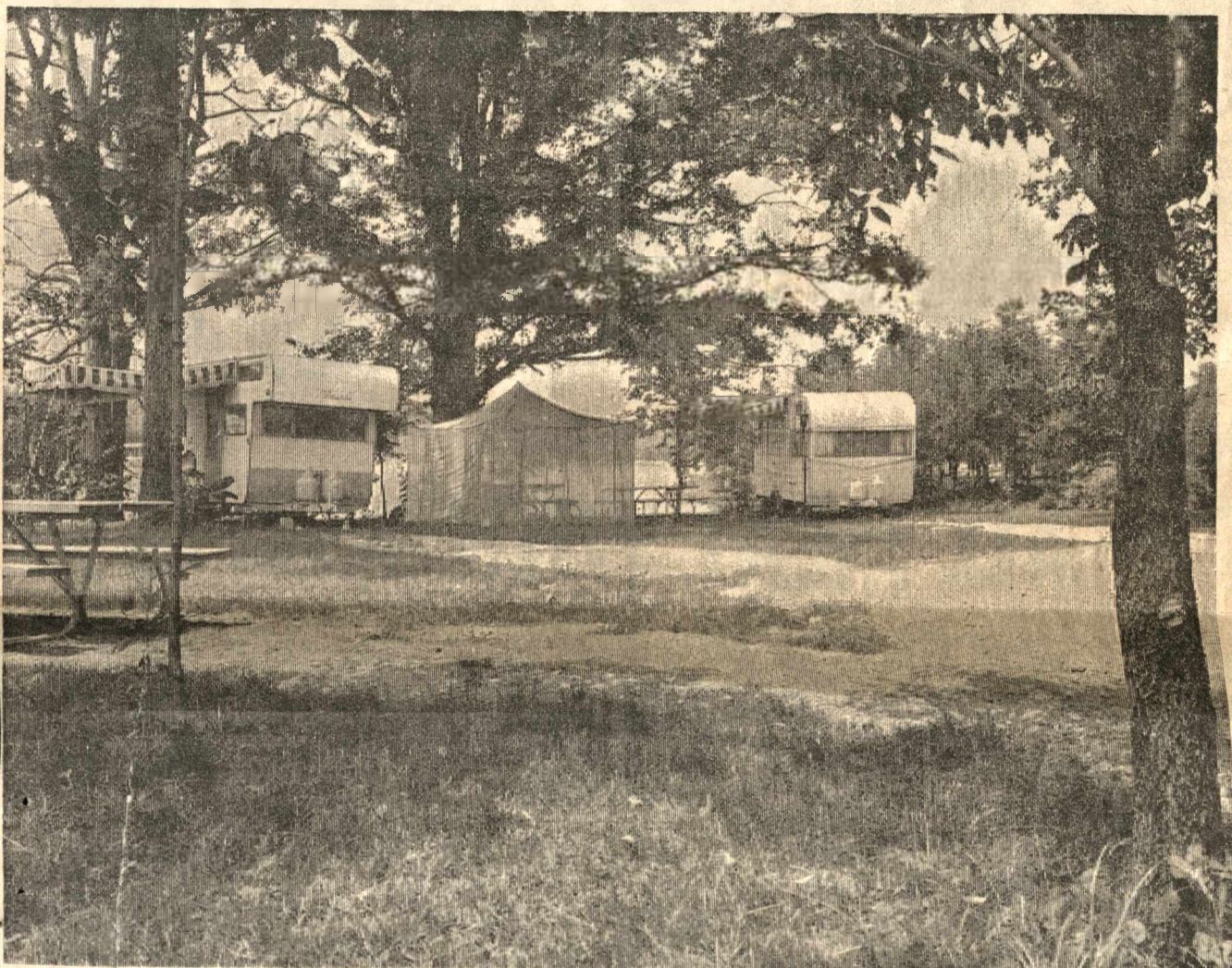
T.N. TRIB-STAR  
5-21-70

Vigo Co. Recreation

# Fowler Park Dedication



THE BEACH at Fowler Park opened for swimming late in the season last summer. Improvements completed during the winter and early spring permitted this scene within a few days of its opening on Memorial Day, 1970.



FOWLER PARK campsites are available at nominal cost, with the space designated for this activity being expanded continuously. Campers and trailers are welcome, according to park spokesmen who report that this recreational pursuit is one of the fastest growing activities.

Martin Photos.

INDIANA ROOM

REFERENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE

PAMPHLET FILE



By JACK A. HUGHES

Tribune Staff Writer

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department marks the rapidly continuing development of Fowler Park with dedication ceremonies July 5.

Named for the late Capt. Eugene R. Fowler, the park is the first county recreation facility, entering full-scale operation this season with sunbathing and swimming, camping and fishing, picnicing and just plain relaxing available throughout the summer.

Capt. Fowler, U.S. Army, died in Vietnam April 27, 1965, fatally injured in a land mine explosion. He is reputed to have been the first man from Vigo County killed by hostile enemy action in Vietnam.

The 140-acre park, with 20 acres on the site of a former strip mining operation, was acquired by the county from the Peabody Coal Company in the summer of 1967.

Development of the park began with the spotting of about a dozen picnic tables around the lake and an invitation to area fishermen and picnickers. The first, simple facilities—and fish production growing from a stocking project several years earlier—quickly brought visitors who supported improvement plans.

#### Season in Full Swing

Next month's dedication will find Fowler Park in full swing with its first complete season of swimming along a 240-foot beach; 60 picnic-fishing sites at tables around the lake, many equipped with outdoor-oven or charcoal grill cooking facilities; two shelters, including one large structure held for reservations booked well in advance and a smaller shelter for day-to-day use; primitive trails for hiking around and over the mine spoil banks (said to be a treasure trove of fossils waiting for amateur archeologists); fish growing bigger each year (reports of catches include bass, 20 inches or better and approaching five pounds); a concession stand; two camping sites and other facilities.

Dr. Robert H. Meyne, chairman of the Department of Recreation, Indiana State University, will be the guest speaker for the Sunday dedication ceremony slated for 2 p.m.

Fowler Park is located about six miles south of Terre Haute, just east of U.S. 41 with signs directing visitors the short distance from the federal highway to the park entrance.

And all the park services are free of charge, with the exception of camp sites which run \$1 per night.

The 1969 departmental report noted the addition of a shelter, a trailer camping area, improved beach, half of the picnic facilities now offered, clearing of hiking trails and other work.

The shelter was donated by the local Kiwanis Club and was constructed by the Operating Engineers Local No. 841, Structural Iron Workers Local No. 439 and Laborers International Local No. 204, who donated their work. Other union organizations credited with participation in that project, by donation of labor include bricklayers, masons, tilesetters, marble-setters and terrazzo workers, Carpenters Local No. 133, Plasterers and Cement Finishers, and Sheet Metal Workers Local No. 7.

#### Many Volunteers

In addition to work by park personnel members of Boy Scout Troop No. 32 and of the Conservation Club of Woodrow Wilson Junior High School have contributed work on the trails.

And members of the American Federation of Teachers are engaged in the restoration of a log cabin near the park entrance.

Other recent activities included installation of underground power, water and telephone lines.

David Beres, department superintendent, assumed that post last August from Richard D.

Norris who, having guided park development from its inception, resigned to take a teaching position in an Illinois junior college, specializing in recreational education.

Beres, 27, is a 1968 graduate of Indiana State University following military service in the

South Pacific. In his report to the County Park and Recreation Board at the beginning of this year, Beres described the work of department personnel as "... outstanding and was such as to make the people of Vigo County proud of their accomplishments." Both he and the board expressed thanks to many individuals and groups, both in and out of government, who have contributed to Fowler Park's progress.

Board members include Jack R. Wood, president; R. Fox Burns, vice president; Mrs. R. L. Winklepleck, secretary; John E. Etling and Virgil Griffith.



Parks & Recreation (10.6)

# Fowler Lake analysis under way

Community Affairs File

T s AUG 7 1984

Indiana Department of Natural Resources personnel will conduct a biological analysis of water in Fowler Lake south of Terre Haute for the next several days in order to determine if the lake is in healthy condition to maintain a good fish population.

Keith Ruble, superintendent of the Vigo County Park and Recreation department, said the DNR personnel will measure the oxygen content and temperature of the water and take scale samples of some of the fish. He said among other things they want to determine if the fish are growing properly.

"They're totally taking over management of our lakes to improve the fisheries of this county," Ruble said of the work formerly done by the county. "The state realizes there's a great demand for fishing in Indiana and they want to provide more fishing areas for the public."

"They'll also check out our wilderness area lakes," said Ruble of those eight lakes in the 300-acre wilderness park at Fowler Park which opened for the first time this spring.

Ruble said two years ago \$4,000 worth of chemicals were used to kill off rough fish in Fowler Lake and to restock it with bass, blue gill, channel cat and red ear fish.

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Community Affairs File



# Southern County Park *Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co.)* Gets Additional Acreage

S NOV 26 1980

Fowler Park will be expanded by more than 300 acres without using extra county funds, according to Keith Ruble, park superintendent following a meeting with county park board members.

According to Ruble, a plan has been devised in which a transfer of property adjacent to Fowler Park would enable the park to accommodate camping facilities for the Wabash Valley Boy Scouts of who are interested in extending their outdoor program.

Ruble said negotiations involving the BSA Council and Peabody Coal Co., owner of the adjacent land to Fowler Park, had been completed. Under an agreement between both factions, a reversionary clause gives the property back to the coal company if the land is not used for scouting purposes.

That same clause applies in the event the land isn't used for recreational purposes, Ruble added.

The BSA Council recently voted to approve the transfer which contains nearly 20 acres of lakes, to the county park department. John Thomas, attorney for the BSA and County Attorney Robert L. Wright are currently working out the final details of the transfer.

During the park board meeting, discussion on what to name the new northeast county park and plans for development of the site were discussed.

Ruble reported the park department has had \$200,000 in federal funds approved for the new park, with \$15,000 for acquisition and \$50,000 for the second phase of the dam renovation, as well as playground development and trails.

Contributions to the new facility include \$5,000 worth of fish from state fisheries and 1,200 hours of construction work in the wetlands by the J.I. Case Co.

The park will include a tree nursery and a consolidated maintenance program for it and Fowler Park.

Vigo County Public Library

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Community Affairs File



Vigo County Public Library

# Outlook

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Community Affairs File

## Eagles blaze park trail

By JOE BEACH  
Tribune Staff Writer  
T MAY 11 1981

The Wabash Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America is in the process of turning almost 300 acres of land, including a large lake, near Fowler Park over to the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, Earl Brandt, scout executive with the area council, said.

The land, which was given to the Boy Scouts by Peabody Coal Co., will be used by the park department as a primitive campground and recreation area. The Wabash Valley Council and park officials have been discussing the transfer for more than a year, Brandt said. Lawyers for both parties are working out the details of the transfer.

"It's in the hands of the attorneys now," he said.

Brandt said the local scouts were given the property in the late 1960s with the stipulation it be used for scouting purposes. Because the Wabash Valley Council didn't have the funds to develop the land, it decided to turn the land over to the county, he said.

Once the county receives title to the land, park officials plan to construct trails, a public boat dock on the lake and a parking lot on the property, Chet Burkybyle, assistant superintendent of parks, said. Campsites accessible only by trail are also planned.

"This county needs that kind of thing," he said. Burkybyle said that work on the new park will

depend on the amount of funds available. The park department will close the area to motorcycle traffic and clean up trash that has been dumped on the grounds.

Inmates from the Vigo County Jail may be utilized as workers for the project under a new Indiana law, he said.

Work on a trail for the new park has already been started, however, by a group of scouts. As part of an Eagle Scout service project, eight scouts have cleared a partial trail through one of the roughest areas of the park, Jerry Summers, scout master, said.

Scott Summers, an Eagle Scout candidate, planned and supervised the project to fulfill the requirements to advance to the rank. The boys spent about 150 hours planning and executing the project, Summers said.

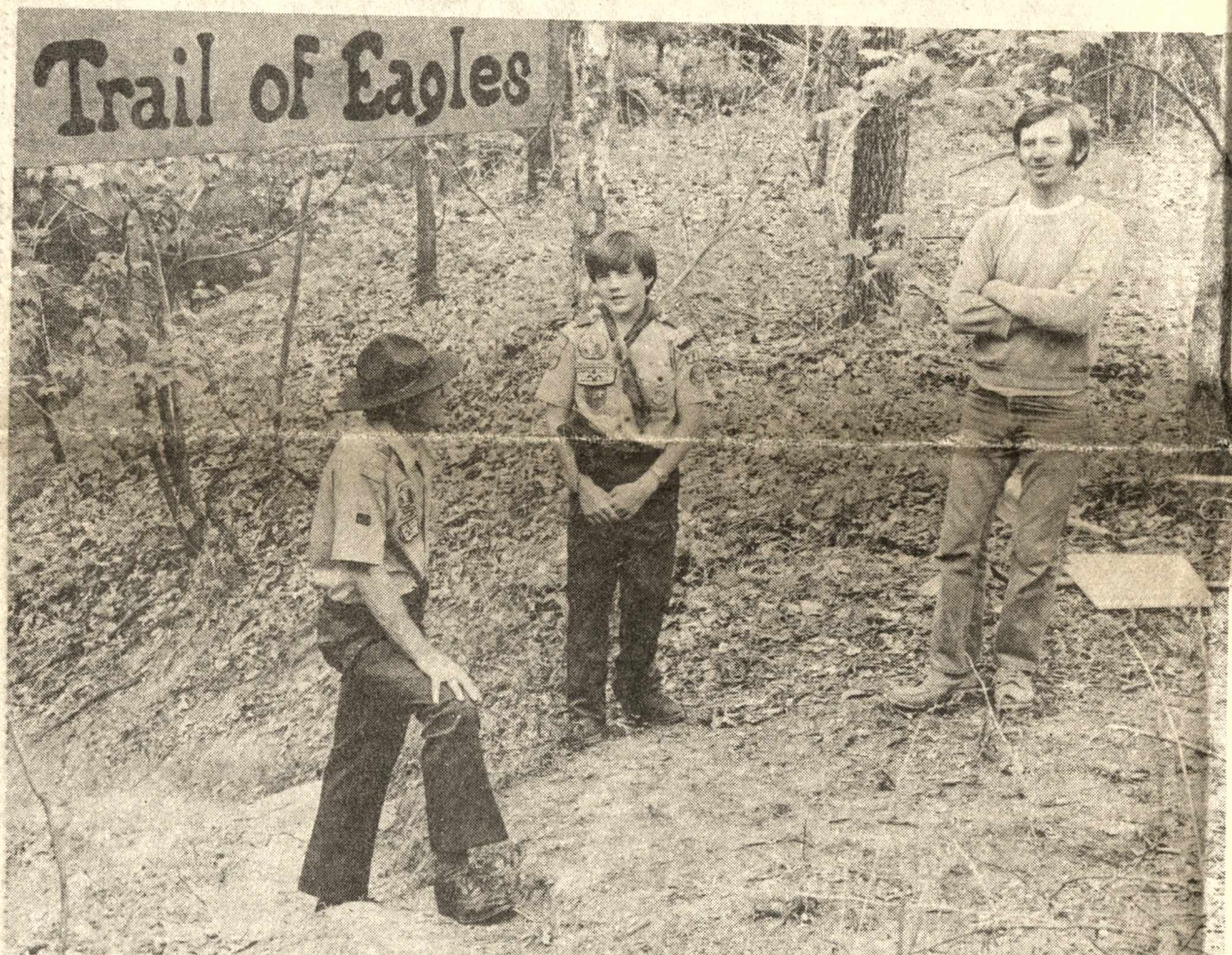
The scouts cleared the trail through the mounds left by strip mining by cutting grooves to reduce soil erosion. They also trimmed and cleared trees and bushes along the trail, Summers said.

The work was done between April 13 and 18 with finishing touches applied May 4. The trail was named the "Trail of Eagles" to commemorate the project, he said.

Summers said many of the boys participated in the project to meet requirements for rank advancement while others "worked out of the spirit of service." "People will be using this trail for years to come," he said.



TRIMMING THE TREE — Danny Clayton removes a low branch from one of the trees along the Trail of Eagles on property to become part of the Vigo County Park and Recreation Dept. projects.



SIGN MARKING THE WAY — Scout master Jerry Summers, his son, Scott, an Eagle Scout candidate, and Keith Ruble, superintendent of parks with the county, pause under the new sign.

didate, and Keith Ruble, superintendent of parks with the county, pause under the new sign.



HISTORY OUTLINED — Counselor Dick Watson puts up the sign which gives the history of the project undertaken by the Boy Scouts.



FINAL STEPS — Eagle Scouts wind up their project along Trail of Eagles before showing it to the park department officials.



AT LAKE'S EDGE — Scouts and volunteers pause beside one of the lakes created when Peabody

removed coal from the property years ago. Plans include adding boat docks.



SHOVELING THROUGH MOUND — Scouts Steve Walton and Keith Summers apply some

muscle power to the work at hand as trails are cut through the deposits of earth.



REFERENCE

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Sunday,  
June 24, 1984

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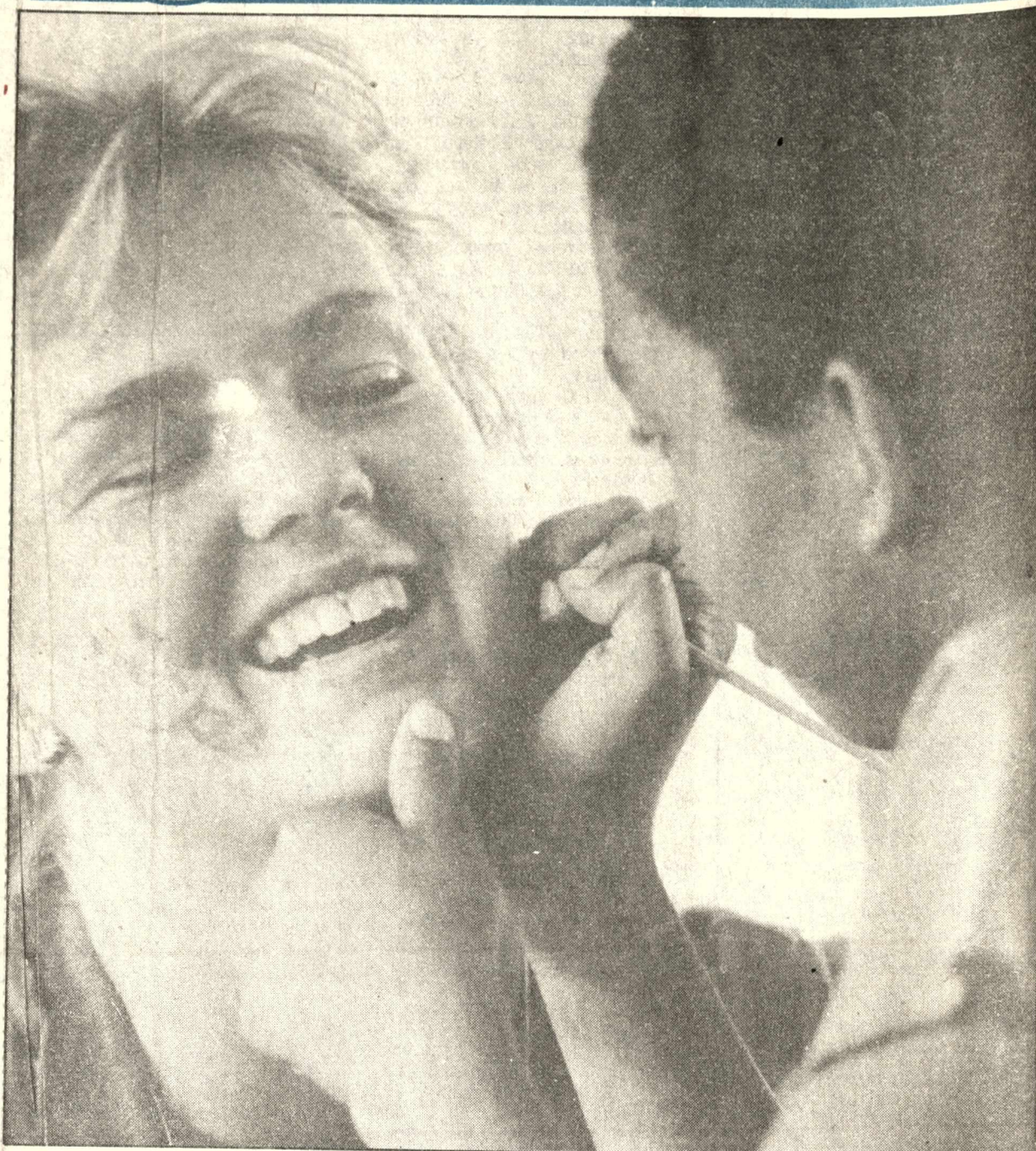
Section

## Living

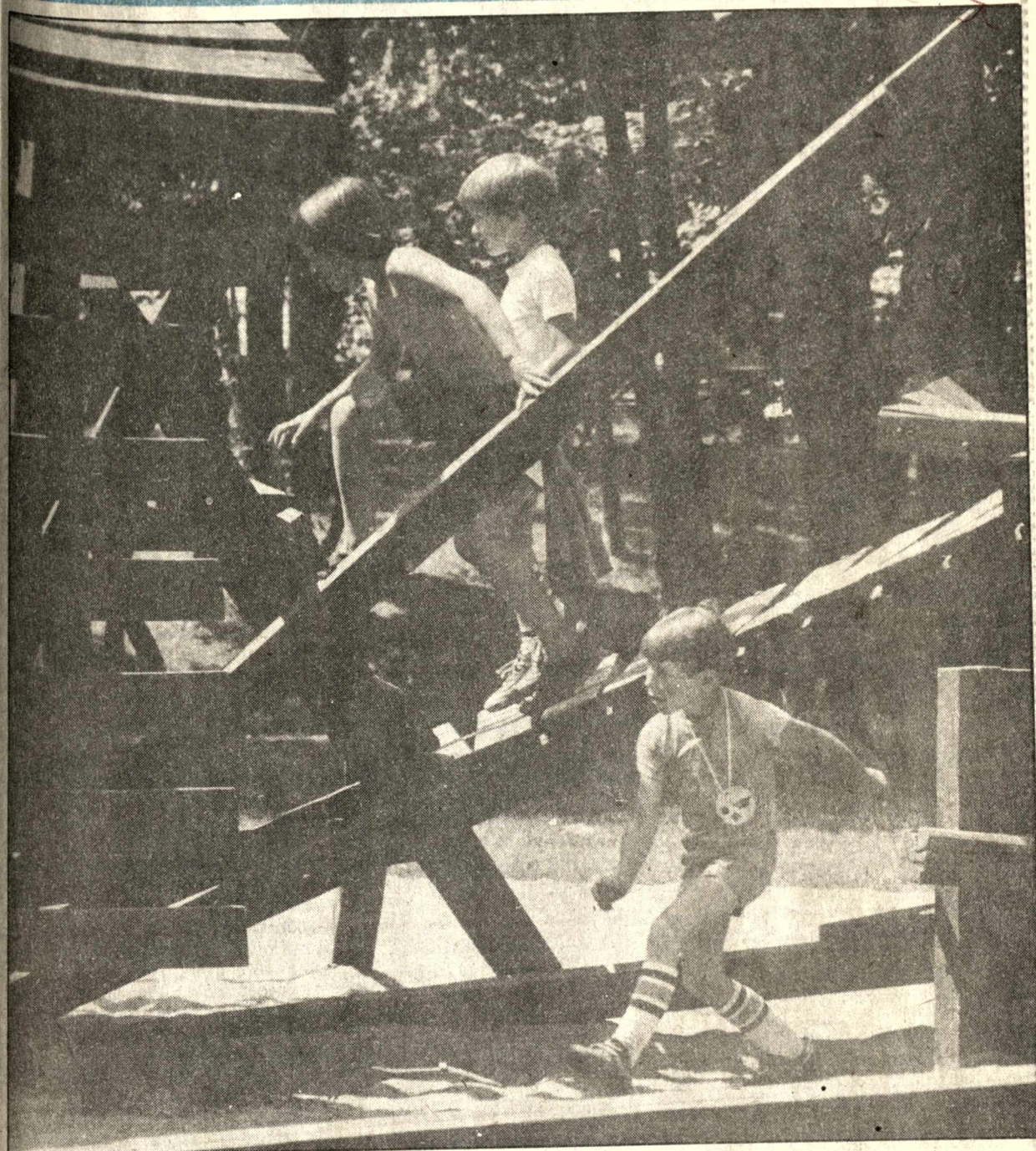
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Paint job: Instructor Tracey Smith gets new look from camper Ed Weatherspoon.



Up and over: Camp Clover youths try hand at obstacle course.

# Camp Clover is really something special

T s JUN 24 1984

By Charles J. Maloof  
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Hundreds of local elementary school youngsters are experiencing a fun adventure and enjoying the sunshine at Camp Clover through July 19 at Fowler Park in Vigo County.

"It is the primary intent of this program to provide inner-city youth opportunities to attend informal outdoor education learning sessions," John T. Hancewicz, Vigo County youth extension agent, said. "Our emphasis is on helping the needy and to teach the kids something they didn't know and how

to do it."

Some 76 youths, ages 6 to 12, from Harrison Township are attending each week's session from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with no fees charged the campers, the agent said.

"Over 150 applications were received for many of the weeks of the seven-week camp, but a first-come, first-served basis prevailed," he said. "This is due to the economical climate, and to some kids, this is their only vacation trip."

The program, which began May 29, is geared for development of locomotor movement, cooperation, socialization skill improvement,

adaptability of the child and an intense effort on the part of human relations. Hancewicz explained. "Those attending also can develop a chain of creativity through songs, crafts, recreation, outdoor cooking and nature," he said.

The first week in May, Hancewicz delivered the camp reply cards to Meadows, Davis Park, Deming, Warren, Terre Town, Quabache, University School, Franklin, Fuqua, Greenwood, DeVaney, Sugar Grove, Fairbanks and Crawford schools.

"Parents gave us a good response with some even bringing their children to the [Vigo County] extension office to sign up,"

Hancewicz said.

Buses pick up the youngsters about 8:15 a.m. each day and return them home by 4 p.m.

At Camp Clover, activities include swimming, arts and crafts, nature studies and games. "We also have a one-hour a day formal education session for them," Hancewicz said. "and, lessons are provided in foods and nutrition, police, fire, health and safety and by the Hamilton Center."

All youths are given a balanced nutritional free lunch and snack during their daily stay.

Now in its 15th Year, Camp Clover is sponsored by the county extension and, for the last four years, by

Harrison Township. E. Nick Peters is Harrison Trustee and his advisory board includes Leonard Conrad, John Brentlinger and Paul Schofstall Jr.

"Their funding is very important, it makes our program go," Hancewicz said. "Hopefully, revenue sharing will be around next year so we can continue the camp."

Utilizing Fowler Park for the 14th year, the camp also has a good working relationship with the Vigo County Park and Recreation Department, the agent said. "They are always helpful and make the camp feel welcome to the facility," he said. "Keith Ruble and Chet

Burkeybyle have been good to work with over the years and have helped make the camp successful."

Donna Gibbons, an Indiana State University graduate, is camp director this year. Her staff includes counselors David Pabst, Tracey Smith, Elaine Walters, Page Etling, Martha O'Connor. Belva Crosby is the camp cook. The counselors are either enrolled or graduated from ISU, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College or Indiana University, Hancewicz said.

"They all are doing a tremendous job," he said. "In addition to helping the kids, they're getting valuable experience from the camp."



Fun in the swings: Billy Reynolds and David Todd enjoy the outdoors.



Vigo County Public Library

Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter